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ON THE COVER:

The U.S. Marines present the colors at the championship night of the Big Sky PBR while members of the community hold the American Flag in the center of the arena. PHOTO BY BAILEY MILLS

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Big Sky PBR: Recapping the 10th year

In it's 10th year, Big Sky PBR brought crowds to their feet in a sold-out arena with a week of family fun. From crowd surfing rodeo clowns, mutton bustin' and bucking bulls, the event once again made history on

Housing Trust launches rent local incentives

The Big Sky Housing Trust estimates that the current vacancy rate for long-term rental units in Big Sky and Bozeman is zero, not for a lack of units, but rather that many vacancies end up in the hands of vacationers, an issue the Housing Trust aims to fix.

The Crossing fills historic grain mill with voices

Internationally-acclaimed and Grammy winning chamber choir The Crossing performed inside Bozeman's historic Story Mill grain mill as a part of their summer residency program. Additionally, it was their first in-person performance since before the pandemic.

Q&A: Search and Rescue

Gallatin County Sheriff Search and Rescue Big Sky Section has been finding lost hikers, digging skiers out of avalanches and even rescuing rafters and kayakers from swift river currents for 29 years. EBS spoke to one SAR member, Julian Gerardi, who has been on the team approximately 14 years to learn just what makes being a part of the team so special.

Tradition carries on in new Len Hill Park

In a patchwork of blankets and chairs, attendees of the July 15 Music in the Mountains featuring funk rock band Sneaky Pete and the Secret Weapons were enjoying the turf of the new Len Hill Park lawn. Although a 13-year tradition, the concert series has been happily stretching its legs in the revamped venue, named for the donor who made its continued existence possible.



Celebrities who played in the annual Big Brothers Big Sisters Big Sky celebrity golf tournament gather before the backdrop of Lone Peak. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

EDITORIAL POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Letters to the editor allow EBS readers to express views and share how they would like to effect change. These are not Thank You notes. Letters should be 250 words or less, respectful, ethical, accurate, and proofread for grammar and content. We reserve the right to edit letters and will not publish individual grievances about specific businesses or letters that are abusive, malicious or potentially libelous. Include: full name, address, phone number and title. Submit to media@outlaw.partners.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

For the August 13, 2021 issue: August 4, 2021

CORRECTIONS

Please report errors to media@outlaw.partners.

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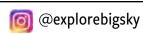
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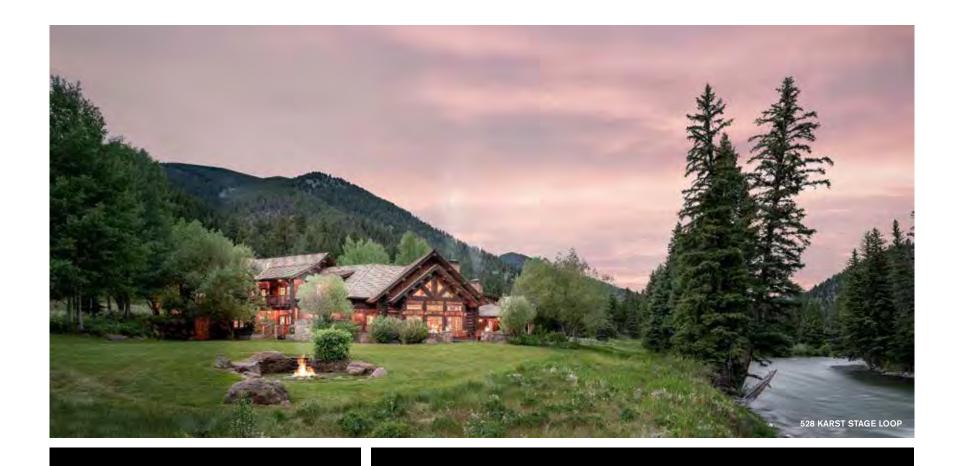
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THE BIGSKY REAL ESTATE CO.

MONTANA DREAM PROPERTY

Just listed. These three premier properties will be sold as a package. The elegant log home sits on two, ten acre parcels and offers nearly 1000 feet of riverfront footage on the iconic Gallatin River, a blue ribbon trout stream. This stunning home includes a sauna, a library, three woodburning fireplaces, a fabulous bunk room and plenty of outdoor recreation area.

Also, offered as part of the package is a 1.02 acre ski in/ski out lot at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club which provides either a golf or ski social membership. Enjoy a world class Signature Weiskopf 18 hole golf course, tennis & pickle ball courts, miles of hiking and mountain biking trails that double as groomed Nordic/snow shoe trails in the winter, 2 1/2 miles of a tributary of the Gallatin River and a clubhouse with fine dining, a lively bar, men's and women's locker rooms, workout facility, private pool, hot tubs & ski access. Enjoy benefits at the Montage hotel as well.

528 Karst Stage Loop
MLS # 360585 | HOME & LAND | 10 +/- ACRES

528 Karst Stage Loop
MLS # 360584 | LAND | 10 +/- ACRES

Elkridge Lot 39
MLS # 360583 LAND | 1.02 +/- ACRES









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View all my listings at bigskyrealestate.com/team/martha-johnson





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The Big Sky community and surrounding ecosystem are under a lot of pressure with increased visitation. What is one way you take care of Big Sky?



Becca Kaufman | Washington D.C.

"It's hard because there's so little that feels in our control. One thing we try to do is not visit very crowded hiking trails to keep traffic from being even worse."



"I think one of the things we try to do is stay on the trails, try not to go off-trail and, I don't know, promote that more to make sure other people stay on the trails."



Kasady Brehm | Grand Island, Nebraska

"I live out of my car so I have to do a lot of leave no trace action up in the Canyon, so I just make sure everywhere that I camp is super clean when I leave it."



Tom Salter | Nashville, Tennessee

"The main thing is to leave no trace, like as we're walking trails to make sure to pick up after ourselves and take back everything we bring."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Creating a Connected, Engaged and Thriving Community Through Stewardship & Partnerships

Did you know that Len Hill Park, where hundreds gather each week to watch Music in the Mountains and participate in other seasonal family events and activities, was slated to be a condo complex? The license to operate the land in the center of Big Sky as a park was set to expire in 2023 and condominiums were planned. Thanks to the foresight of [the Big Sky Community Organization] and community members like Dr. Patricia Gordon and the Len Hill Charitable Trust, along with partners like the Simkins family, we were able to keep the centrally located land for community use in perpetuity—including the park and land that the community center, BASE, sits on. It's important to recognize those that made this possible.

Whether we've lived here for 20 years or just discovered Big Sky, I think we can all agree we live in an extremely special and unique place. It will take each one of us stepping up and pitching in to realize our vision of creating a connected, engaged and thriving community for all.

Kate Ketschek Big Sky Community Organization Board Chair





OR



A Salt-Free Alpine Water softening system can save a typical family:

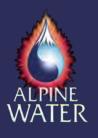
10,000 gallons of water / year 800 pounds of salt / year \$1000 / year

Costly repair and replacement of appliances Use of RO system to remove salt from drinking water

Salt free water softening saves money, resources, the environment, and your appliances



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BETTER TOGETHER RESORT TAX A biweekly District bulletin

In Fiscal Year 2021 (July 2020-June 2021) 48 projects from 25 sponsoring organizations were awarded funding for projects and programs critical to the Big Sky Community. Throughout the year we will be regularly featuring Resort Tax funded community inititives. Additional Project Spotlights can be found @ ResortTax.org

Did You Know ...?

FOOD

District Board elections are held every 2 years. The next election will be held in May 2022.

Resort Tax Project Spotlights

Project:

Case Management, Outreach, Operations, & Food Purchase Sponsor:

Big Sky Community Food Bank

Since 2012, The Big Sky Community Food Bank has been providing free emergency food to Big Sky workers and families, along with a wide array of services to address the underlying causes of household food insecurity. In Fiscal Year 2021 the Food Bank served 1,504 food boxes to 763 households, and delivered food to 40 quarantined households. Other services include: a community coatroom (with toiletries, linens, outwear, cookware, and household necessities); gas cards; vouchers for fresh produce from the Country Market; application assistance for various COVID Relief funds; Income Tax filing assistance; help to enroll in Healthcare Insurance; SNAP application assistance; and referrals for a wide variety of mental and behavioral health services. (Learn more @ BigSkyFoodBank.org)



Project:

Permanent Conservation of Big Sky's Fish & Wildlife Habitat & Open Space

Sponsor:

Montana Land Reliance

The Montana Land Reliance (MLR) is one of a handful of organizations in the area that partners with private landowners to permanently protect agricultural lands, fish and wildlife habitat, and open space. MLR is committed to conservation throughout Montana, including dedicated staff that live and work in Big Sky.

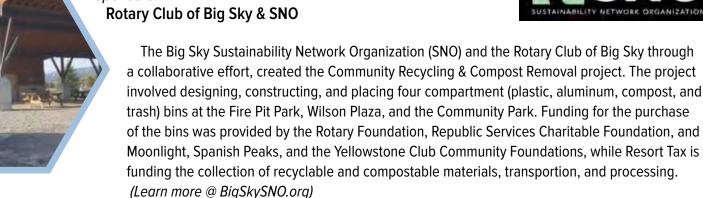
MLR has protected eight properties within or touching the Resort Tax Boundary equaling 26,428 acres of habitat and stream frontage preserved, which includes a recently completed conservation easement on over 2,400 acres that straddles two wilderness areas and abuts national forest and other conserved land. This easement is home to many species of animals including elk, grizzly and black bear, mule deer, and wolverine. MLR's success is due in large part to funding sources like Resort Tax. (Learn more @ MTLandReliance.org)



Project:

Community Recycling & Compost Removal Sponsors:

BIG SKY
SN SUSTAINABILITY NETWORK ORGANIZATION



Share public comment by emailing Info@ResortTax.org
or by attending District meetings.
Visit ResortTax.org
for more information.



Upcoming Board Meetings

August 11th @ 9:00 am

September 8th @ 9:00 am



*District Meetings are held at the Resort Tax office (11 Lone Peak Dr. #204) and through Zoom

Administered by the Big Sky Resort Area District, Resort Tax is a 4% tax on luxury goods & services.

OUR VISION: "Big Sky is BETTER TOGETHER as a result of wise investments, an engaged community, and the pursuit of excellence."



NEWS IN BRIEF



Gallatin County issues county-wide burn ban

GALLATIN MEDIA CENTER

BOZEMAN – Due to historically dry fuel levels, ongoing drought conditions and a lack of firefighting resources regionally, the Gallatin County Commission has signed an emergency ordinance banning burning and other activities that increase the risk of wildfire in Gallatin County. The ordinance went into effect immediately and will remain in effect for 90 days until the commission rescinds it.

The following acts are prohibited in Gallatin County, excluding only those lands under the jurisdiction of federal, state or municipal agencies:

Open burning

- Recreational fires, excluding petroleum-fueled devices that can be turned immediately on and off with no element that continues to burn
- Use of any firework, explosive or incendiary device
- Smoking outside an enclosed vehicle or building, unless the smoking occurs in an area at least three feet in diameter that is clear of all flammable material
- Operating motorized vehicles off a road or trail, except for an agricultural or utility activity (e.g. maintaining livestock, maintaining water facilities, or utility maintenance work)

Although not prohibited by this ordinance, people are also recommended to refrain from shooting firearms outside of developed shooting ranges clear of natural vegetation.

Soul Shine returns Aug. 12

Community bike ride, Music in the Mountains event to celebrate late Mark Robin

HUNGRY MOOSE MARKET AND DELI

BIG SKY – The Hungry Moose Market and Deli is pleased to return as headline sponsor of the Music in the Mountains event on Thursday, Aug.12 featuring local bands, Moonlight Moonlight and headliner, Dammit Lauren!. This will also mark the return of Soul Shine, an event to remember longtime local Mark Robin, who passed away from complications of ALS in 2017.

The festivities will begin with a Community Bike Ride open to all ages starting and ending at The Firepit Park in the Town Center of Big Sky. Dress up in your Soul Shine best, decorate your bike or just show up by 5:30 p.m. for the casual ride through local neighborhoods and parts of the Hummocks Trail—one of Mark's favorite trails.

The music plus a hospitality tent offering burgers, hot dogs, lemonade and Hungry Moose treats kicks off at 6:30 p.m. at Len Hill Park. Everything is complimentary, however the Soul Shine event also raises funds for The Gleason Foundation, an organization that supports technology and independence for those living with ALS. There will be donation jars, an information tent and options to contribute directly to Team Gleason online.

For more information about Soul Shine 2021 and to learn more about Mark Robin and the Gleason foundation, you can visit bigskysoulshine.org.

Crews harness lightningsparked wildfire in Gallatin Canyon

EBS STAFF

GALLATIN CANYON – A small wildfire that began July 20 with a lightning strike in Gallatin Canyon is now contained, according to local officials. The containment came as the U.S. Forest Service implemented Stage 1 fire restrictions in the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

Emergency crews responded at approximately 5:30 p.m. to a reported lightning strike and wildfire near Karst Stage along U.S. Highway 191 in Gallatin Canyon. The rapid response, officials said, kept the fire from growing in southwest Montana's tinder-dry conditions.

The Big Sky Fire Department initially sent firefighters and an engine before they were joined by U.S. Forest Service personnel and a helicopter from the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

The blaze was limited to one-tenth of an acre in size and was considered contained at approximately 10 a.m. on July 21, according to Marna Daley, public affairs officer with the Forest Service. The lightning ignited the fire on a ridgetop near Moose Creek Campground in steep terrain, an approximate two-mile hike up the western flanks from Highway 191.

The Forest Service responded with crews to dig fireline and a helicopter to provide water drops from the Gallatin River, Daley wrote in a July 21 text message to EBS. "Firefighters are continuing mopping up efforts until early this afternoon," Daley said in the text.

Amid a drought-plagued summer in southwest Montana, response time is critical.

Bridge projects cause closures in Gallatin Canyon

CUSTER GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

GALLATIN CANYON – If you use the following trailheads or areas in Gallatin Canyon, please be advised of multiple bridge projects affecting access in early August:

- On Aug. 2, the Twin Cabin trailhead road access bridge will be closed from 7:30 p.m. until midnight while the homeowners association there completes maintenance on the bridge.
- On Aug. 4 and 5, Highland Construction will be completing maintenance work on the Markley Bridge (also known as the Green Bridge or Deer Creek Bridge). The bridge will be closed to traffic both days.
- On Aug. 6 through the 13 the Durnam Bridge will be closed for maintenance.



Antler Creek Wildlife Creations Sacred Arrow Productions

BY MIRA BRODY

Bryan Mackie of Antler Creek Wildlife Creations doesn't consider himself retired or unemployed, but rather "fun-employed." The former engineer and Bozeman native stepped into the art world full time four years ago and hasn't looked back since, crafting functional art from elk and deer antlers for fans to enjoy in their homes.



From his famous antler dog toys, to elegant antler chandeliers, table candleholders and even full-sized tables, you'll probably be hard-set to walk into a Big Sky home without one of his pieces. For visitors to the area, he says, people love his smaller, packable creations, such as bottle openers, wall hooks and cribbage boards, so they can bring home a little piece of Big Sky with them to remember their trip by.

Mackie was an antler collector and grew tired of selling them. After seeing antler crafts many years ago, he decided to try his hand at the art, starting off by finishing his first antler table. Today, he gathers 10 percent of his sheds himself, buys some off of other local collectors, and will buy from national brokers if necessary but aims to stick local whenever possible.

"I think it's kind of unique to the area and definitely a unique piece," Makie said of his antler creations. "Even the little stuff—at the market I have a lot of little items that people can take home, like a piece of an antler, or something made from an antler—something representative of Big Sky country."

Stop by the Big Sky Farmers Market to see Mackie's creations, or visit antlercreek.com for his full catalogue.

BY JULIA BARTON

Dan Thayer of the Southern Cheyenne Nation felt a calling to learn about the "old ways" of his culture, sending him down a historical rabbit hole of Western tradition and

inspiring an array of beadwork art pieces he now sells with his wife, Brenda.



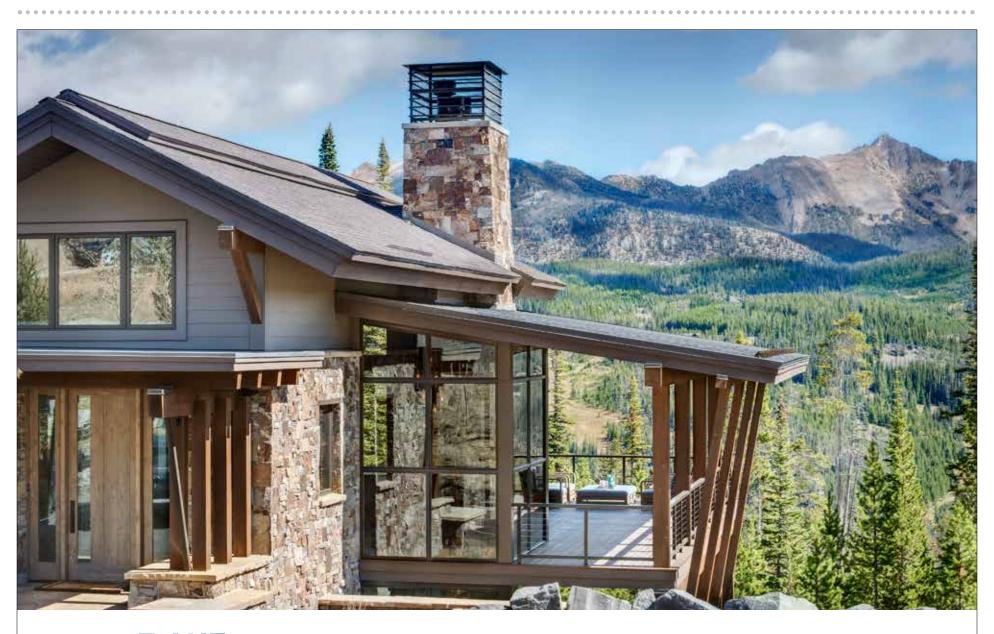
Dan's beadwork adorns leather bags, pouches, sheaths and the like using bright colors and precise detail to reference tribal stories from the Southern Cheyenne. One bag can take days to finish, each tiny bead stringed on one at a time.

"I tried to learn as much as I could... and I just kept developing it. Now I'm doing bags that incorporate some of our tribal stories into a piece of art," said Dan.

The trade was passed along to Dan from his grandmother, and he taught himself new techniques from studying the work of others. As a disabled veteran, Dan finds that the activity is relaxing and fosters a deep connection to Western history, in which he has become recognized as an expert.

"He's one of the top interpreters around. There isn't anybody that can beat him on knowing the history," said Brenda, who also contributes to the beadwork and art sold through Sacred Arrow. The business is truly a family operation, as Dan and Brenda's son, Duel, constructs plush characters through sewing and crochet that can also be found at their shop.

Based out of Ennis, the Sacred Arrow Productions booth can be spotted at the Big Sky Farmers Market every Wednesday, along with other markets around the Mountain West, sharing their Cheyenne heritage one beaded bag or plush critter at a time.





PREMIER LIFESTYLE CRAFTERS

Short-term rentals shave locals' housing options

Housing Trust to provide incentives to homeowners renting to longterm tenants

This is the first story in a two-part series. Stay tuned to explorebigsky.com for the next installment.

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – In April, Colin McNamara drove from Big Sky to the Motor Vehicle Department in Bozeman to get a Montana driver's license. After moving to Big Sky from Maine in fall of 2018, it was time to make it official.

McNamara debated if he should put his current address on the new ID. We've been living there for almost a year, he thought, and we're about to renew the lease. Why not?

As he was leaving the building, he got a text from his landlords who had been renting a Hill condo in the Mountain Village to him, his girlfriend, Jackie Gonzalez, and their roommate a since June 2020.

The landlords would not be renewing the lease, they wrote, since they wanted to catch up on money lost renting long-term.

With a 60-day notice, McNamara began his search for new housing in Big Sky. Finding little luck during those two months, McNamara thought he'd have to abandon the career he began building as a bar manager at Lone Mountain Ranch and move back east. Days before moving out, he had stacks of packed boxes and nowhere to put them, nowhere to go.

McNamara's story is not unique. When he told people he got "the AirBnB notice," they all knew exactly what he meant.

Given the opportunity to make significantly more money on the shortterm market, many homeowners are flipping long-term housing leases into vacation rentals. "You just hear the story so much," McNamara said.

The Big Sky Housing Trust, which started as a Human Resource Development Council project but became an independent nonprofit this July, estimates that the current vacancy rate for long-term rental units in Big Sky and Bozeman is exactly zero. It's not only that Big Sky doesn't have enough units, argues Housing Trust executive director Laura Seyfang, it's also that so many units are ending up in the hands of vacationers.

"I think the loss of long-term rentals here that went to the short-term rental market. I want to say it's 30 percent of the [housing] problem," Seyfang said.

At a March 10 board meeting, the Big Sky Resort Area District discussed the number of units needed to house Big Sky by 2023. Based on a 2018 study commissioned by the Housing Trust, paired with a handful of growth projections, the analysis shared at the meeting found a deficiency of more than 1,400 units after considering newly developed Lone Mountain Land



Colin McNamara, bar manager at Lone Mountain Ranch, lost his housing this year to the short-term rental market. PHOTO BY BELLA BUTLER



Company Housing and Big Sky Housing Trust housing like the deed restricted MeadowView development.

The analysis took into consideration what it labeled "pipeline" projects, or anticipated housing, including the Housing Trust's forthcoming RiverView Apartments, leaving an estimated remaining need of 414 units by 2023. The Housing Trust estimates there are currently 1,200 units being rented on the short-term rental market.

This presentation at the resort tax board meeting before the pandemic hit Big Sky, sending droves of new residents to the area and spiking the real estate market, are all conditions that have exacerbated the housing crisis.

Seyfang said the Trust would like to build more units designed for workforce, but that those projects are more than two years out. The nearest solution, a stopgap, she said, is making some short-term rentals available to long-term tenants.

A year and a half ago, the Housing Trust launched a rent local initiative aimed at inspiring homeowners in the area to rent to locals long term rather than putting their homes on the short-term rental market. Seyfang tried helping landlords find and vet tenants, and at the time explained the impact the shift could have on the community.

Though the Housing Trust was able to flip 14 homes to long-term rentals by providing convenience support and altruistic pep talks, according to Seyfang, it's not enough.

"We started with the convenience angle and now realize we need to put a little cash behind it to try to really convince more folks to try to help with the problem here and rent to locals," Seyfang said. "We've realized that people can make a lot of money on the short-term rental market right now. It's really escalated as people want to come and visit our incredibly beautiful community."

According to Housing Trust research based on 2020 figures, homeowners in the Trust's target homeowners associations for the rent local program—places like Hidden Village off MT Highway 64 en route to Big Sky Resort—make between as much as \$10,400 in net profit more on the short-term rental market than on the long-term market if their unit occupied by vacation renters 45-55 percent of the year.

"We don't want to take money out of people's pockets," Seyfang said, "so we're trying to figure out how to incentivize people with some amount of money that might make it a more equitable choice for them."

This year, the Housing Trust applied for various funds to add economic incentives to their rent local push. They applied for money from the resort tax district and the Spanish Peaks and Moonlight community foundations.

The Trust applied for \$130,000 in resort tax and received only half of that for the project. Then-Vice Chair Sarah Blechta, who motioned for the cut, said that the project was too new and unproven to fund in the full amount.

"I'd like to see it succeed at a small scale before just trying to go big," Blechta told EBS on July 28. "Sometimes it's a really great idea to smart small and make it grow."

The Moonlight Community Foundation chose not to fund the project, and the Spanish Peaks Community Foundation put up \$15,000.

On Aug. 1, the Housing Trust will launch its pilot Rent Local Incentive Program.

Seyfang had initially set a goal to flip a total of 50 homes by the end of the year, but with less funding than she had anticipated, now thinks a total of 28—including the 14 already flipped—is a more reasonable target. The Housing Trust aims to add 100 new units to the long-term rental market through the program by 2023.

Seyfang acknowledges that the swap isn't in the cards for all homeowners, and that the Housing Trust can't afford to pay the deficit for homeowners with higher-end homes. She said they're currently working on ways that these homeowners can contribute to housing solutions.

"We've taken away every roadblock we can think of. And so now we just have to figure out if this incentive will draw more [unit conversions]," Seyfang said.

Sixty-one days after McNamara got his 60-day notice, he found Katie and Gerry Barks, a couple from Bozeman who bought two Hill Condos two years ago as an investment. The Barks initially rented their units on the short-term market but felt that long-term rentals would be safer and more reliable when the pandemic hit.

The Barks say that as long as their expenses are covered and everyone's happy, they're pleased with the long-term rental set-up.

"Because we know it's such a housing crisis we sort of feel good about providing a nice place for somebody to live," Katie said. Having kids living in the area, the Barks are empathetic to other young people's housing woes.

The Housing Trust helped connect McNamara, Gonzalez and their new roommates with the Barks' home, where they now have a yearlong lease.

"It was the biggest relief," McNamara said.

After a few days in the new home, McNamara repositioned a houseplant, one small act of building comfort in the place he knew he could stay, at least for a while.

RENT LOCAL INCENTIVE RATES LEASE LENGTH INCENTIVE Previous Landing Locals Lease \$300 New 6-month Lease \$1,500 New 1-Year Lease \$6,750 Renewing 1-Year Lease \$6,750 New 2-Year Lease \$14,500 For definitions on lease types, visit bigskyhousingtrust.org

Construction at Big Sky School District progresses

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – The fences are up; the big machinery is here and construction on Phase 1 of the project to revamp the track and field at Big Sky School District is on schedule.

On May 5, 2020, the community passed a \$23.5 million bond issue introduced by the school district to deal with the expanding student population. According to Loren Bough, school board chair, they are expecting the student population to be over 400 students for kindergarten through 12th grade moving forward.

"We want to have facilities that match that growing student population and also meet the new criteria for moving from a Class C school to a Class B School, which should happen in the next couple years," Bough said. BSSD is currently designated as a Class C school based on enrollment numbers but anticipates a change to Class B in the near future.

Phase 1, which includes a new turf field, lighting, bleachers, an eight-lane track and two

35,000-gallon buried fire tanks, was bid on April 6. Cristie Tate with Tate Management, Inc. was hired as the representative for the Big Sky School District and she has been representing the district throughout design and construction of the project.

Jackson Contractor Group is the construction nanager/general contractor for the project, A&E Design is the architect and Central Excavation is the subcontractor for site work, which started on June 3, 2021.

The plan is to have the turf field ready in mid-September and to finish the track and field facilities on Sept. 24.



Central Excavation began work on the site at LPHS and Ophir School on June 3 and construction on Phase 1 of the project is expected to be completed in mid-September. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

Phase 2 of the project, which includes a 14,235-square-foot STEAM lab, a 26,565-square-foot gym expansion and an additional septic drain field, was bid on May 27th, 2021, but bids came in higher than the project budget due to the current construction market, according to Tate. The project will be re-bid next January. According to Dr. Dustin Shipman, superintendent of the school district, the school board decided at their June 13 meeting to rebid Phase 2. "It wasn't fiscally responsible for us to try to push forward," he said.

Currently, according to Tate, lead times on certain materials push the expected completion of the gym back by five months and increase contractor fees. Originally, she said, Jackson's plan was to build the STEAM lab and the gym expansion simultaneously but that timeline has now been altered.

"The Big Sky School District's decision to rebid the project, with the potential to capture better material pricing, is the responsible decision," Tate said in an email to EBS. "The

school district team has been extremely disciplined in making this decision with regard to financial responsibility to their constituents."

Though Phase 2 has experienced delays, Phase 1 is on schedule and will provide a new resource for the school's growing student body.

"I think the community is going to be very pleased with the new football field and soccer pitch," Bough said. "It's exciting for our community. We're the smallest community in Montana to field a MHSA soccer team and the work there is on schedule and we hope to have the kids on the turf in September."

Water and sewer board receives broad response on affordable housing annexation

Official vote pushed to September

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – The Big Sky County Water and Sewer board received nearly 800 responses on the matter of annexing the RiverView workforce housing project into the water and sewer district. The majority of comments favored annexation.

The proposed project's location—the former American Bank and adjacent lots—is contiguous with the current water and sewer district. The board says it has enough capacity to include the project, and that it's not obligated to bring the issue to a public vote. However, at their June 22 meeting, board members elected to involve the public in the decision through a survey and public hearing, which occurred immediately prior to the board's July 20 meeting.

Of the 790 people who responded as of press time on July 20, nearly 78 percent said they were "very concerned" about the lack of housing for workers in Big Sky.

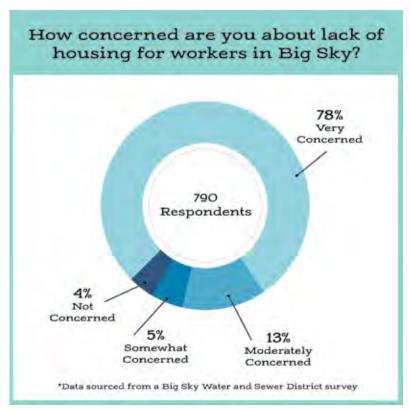
Approximately 17 percent of respondents said they were familiar with the RiverView project, which is a collaboration between Lone Mountain Land Company and the Big Sky Community Housing Trust to build 100 permanently deed-restricted units with affordable rent caps. The remainder of respondents fell somewhere between "somewhat familiar" and "never heard of it."

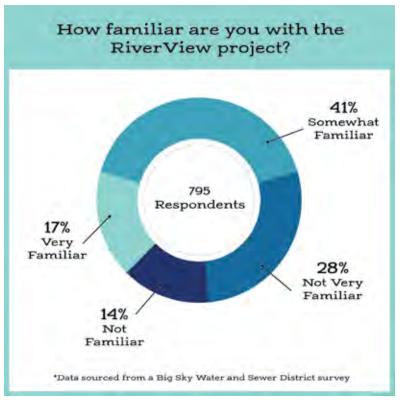
The majority of respondents, more than 60 percent, said they "fully supported" annexing the project into the district. Supportive comments mentioned the overwhelming need for affordable housing, calling the addition "vital" to the success of the community.

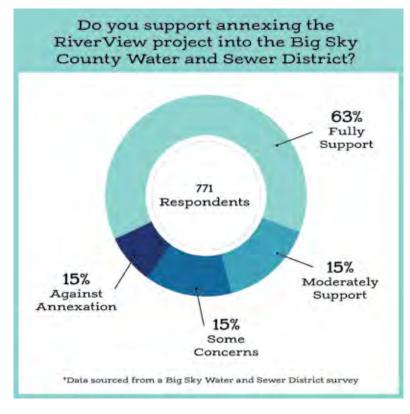
The remainder of respondents said they were either in moderate support of annexation, had concerns, or were against it. While these responses were in the minority, comments that were supplementary to the survey multiple-choice responses were overwhelmingly critical of or questioned the annexation. Respondents brought up concerns over the project's affiliation with private developers, local resource scarcity, traffic impacts, and the obstruction to Big Sky's viewshed upon entrance to the town, among other issues.

"It was impressive how the community participated," said Ron Edwards, executive director for the water and sewer district.

The board was scheduled to vote on the issue at the July 20 meeting, but instead approved amendments to the ordinance in question that will trigger an additional two readings before it can be voted on by the board.







Because the Housing Trust applied for federal tax credits to help fund their portion of the housing development, RiverView must generate income within a certain time period as a condition of the funding.

The Trust anticipates RiverView's water and sewer connections will not be active until Phase 1 of the Water Resource Recovery Facility is complete. The amendment suggests, however, that if the facility's construction is delayed beyond the Housing Trust's mandated timeline, the district will guarantee 25 single-family equivalents in hookups from its current capacity to the portion of RiverView beholden to tax credit conditions.

The Housing Trust recently made it to the final round of applicants to receive the 9 percent Low Income Housing Tax Credits, and according to the Trust's executive director, Laura Seyfang, these credits are "crucial to the overall financing feasibility of the project."

Seyfang also told the board that without approval of annexation and a "will serve letter," the Housing Trust's project will not qualify to receive LIHTC funding.

"We are in such strong need in this community to move forward with projects like this, and I know it's been a challenging one for you guys because of some of the nuances," Seyfang told the board. "But the reality is the land that's available for this sort of development is going to be challenging."

In a 3-2 vote, the board elected to approve the July 20 reading of the ordinance with the amendment and to move forward with two more readings. Board members Tom Reeves and Dick Fast voted against the passing of the ordinance reading.

"I'm very much in favor of affordable housing, but I think this is the wrong project," Fast said, also referencing an early comment he made about prioritizing the needs of existing customers within the district before adding new ones.

Reeves agreed. "I do not want to get into the situation where we deny somebody who's owned property here for 20 years and building because we annexed in a property and ... reserved 25 SFEs," he said.

The second reading of the ordinance will occur at the board's tentatively scheduled Aug. 17 meeting, and they will likely complete their final reading and conduct a board vote on the ordinance at their September board meeting.

The Crossing at Story Mill

In inaugural post-pandemic performance, choral group fills historic grain mill with voices



The Crossing, an internationally-acclaimed and Grammy winning chamber choir, are partaking in their annual Big Sky residency program with the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. Mural by Tucker Nichols. PHOTO BY BLAIR SPEED

BY MIRA BRODY

BOZEMAN – A recording of a homeless man in London singing the verse "Jesus blood never failed me yet. There's one thing I know: that He loves me so." plays on loop, acting as the foundation on top of which the internationally-acclaimed and Grammy winning chamber choir The Crossing place their melodic voices. It's the opening song of their July 27 performance at Story Mill, the defunct historic grain mill on Bozeman's northeast side, and the first in-person performance since before the pandemic.

The weathered nature of the man's vocals, nobility and simple faith of his words and redundancy of the loop fit in with the brick building, shadowed by towering grain storage tanks. It was here that so many immigrants arrived in the Gallatin Valley in the 1800s to work and earn a living. Alongside the voices, attendees could almost feel the gritty work that took place here.

The performance was a part of the group's weeklong residency program in Big Sky and produced through a unique and new partnership between the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center and Tinworks Art in Bozeman. Tinworks steering committee leader Eli Ridgway says this relationship is no accident—that artists often feel drawn to roughened, historic spaces as a theater in which to present their craft.

"We've really found that the artists respond so positively to working in sort of, big, industrial spaces," Ridgway said. "I think they come across as kind of a blank canvas, as opposed to a space that really screams what it is. And it's so big, it's made for big things."

In addition to "Jesus Blood Never Failed Me Yet," The Crossing also performed the first live version of "in nature/I feel," a project that was forced into a hybrid format last year that included poetic lines of ones reflections as they experience nature's offerings, as well as "SHIFT," a new, three-part song that utilized a Black Liberation chant, channeling feelings of strength and catharsis.

Catharsis is exactly what WMPAC Executive Director John Zirkle says he felt joining The Crossing as not only a producer and host of their residency

program, but also a performer. Although the performing arts center worked hard to keep people connected during the pandemic, he says there's no replacement to being in a room experiencing something with a group of people—without all of the technology issues virtual performances inevitably run into. It's an experience that brought many of the choir members to tears during rehearsal.

"The main thing is being in the room all together, that's the new feeling," Zirkle said. "There's a simplicity of just being back in a room—that part really does feel like the awakening and the reminder."

The residency program with The Crossing began as an idea in 2014 and a reality in 2015. Zirkle wanted to bring artists working on new projects to find reprieve and inspiration—like many—in the mountains. "There's nothing more freeing than working on new art in the mountains," he said.

Since then, the relationship between WMPAC and The Crossing has grown into a successful annual program that allows the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania-based choir to experience southwest Montana, and work alongside the community. Before their departure, The Crossing will perform Friday, July 30 where attendees will hike along Jack Creek Preserve among the voices of the Crossing, and Saturday, July 31, which takes place in a spacious meadow in Cache Creek. Tickets to both experiences are sold by vehicle. The cost is \$50 per car, but there is no limit on the number of audience members within each car.

Back in Story Mill, The Crossing starts in on their second song, "in nature," the first time the group has done so together, in person. Some singers are placed outside of the stage area and along the side of the audience rows, making it feel as though we are standing in the midst of a flowing river, the sounds enveloping us all. The acoustics of the tall brick walls and open doorways create a natural cathedral—a few contemporary Tinworks Art displays sitting quietly in the far corners of the building, listening.

After the song concludes and the standing ovation ceases, conductor Donald Nally turns from the choir to face a room full of faces.

"It really is so beautiful to be in a room full of people smiling," he said.

OUTLAW

News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

PBR brings biggest energy to Big Sky for 10th year

Ten days of events culminate with 3 nights of top-notch bull riding

BY BELLA BUTLER

BIG SKY – Logan Biever, 23, of Alberta, Canada, leans against a table, the brim of his cowboy hat low in emblematic cowboy posture as he weaves white tape around his fingers. In the arena, PBR announcer Matt West riles up the crowd and the smell of diesel fuel wafts from the dirt as event producers prep center stage for the riders' fiery entrance.

But back here, the riders have their own way of getting ready. They wrap themselves in tape, strap on colorful chaps and gaze into the chutes, where their 1,600-pound competition snorts fiercely behind gates. Though all parties are disparate in this moment, the crowd, the riders—perhaps even the bulls—are all waiting to be part of something special.

It's Saturday night at the 10th Anniversary Big Sky PBR, and just out of sight of the sold-out arena, a band of the world's top cowboys are about to welcome the Big Sky audience to what they hope will be their own eight seconds of glory. They're bull riders, contenders in a sport that transcends competition and dances with greatness.

It was the same thing that compelled Outlaw Partners founder and Explore Big Sky publisher Eric Ladd to bring the PBR

to Big Sky in 2011. That first one-night event was a sparkling dream that lost the company \$200,000 the first go-round. Now, in its 10th year, the treasured Big Sky event sold out three nights of high-energy, world-class bull riding in four minutes.

"We knew we wanted the 10th anniversary of Big Sky PBR to be special," said Megan Paulson, CEO of Outlaw Partners, "and what happened in the arena those three nights was truly electric. The energy in the crowd was off the charts; we raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for charity; the bulls and bull riders put on a great show, and the community, sponsors and fans showed up."

The time leading up to PBR, now known as Big Sky's Biggest Week, was celebrated this year with 10 days of events, including the annual Big Sky Art Auction, the Big Sky Community Rodeo and Big Sky Community Street Dance, a mutton bustin' family day and a community bingo night to honor the late community legacy, Dick Allgood. Each event was packed and rich with community spirit, a sign of local tradition igniting. Across all 10 days of Big Sky's Biggest Week, roughly \$235,000 was raised for charitable donations through \$375,000 of participation in fundraising activities.

"I don't think I could have ever imagined it being this big," Ladd said, "But I think I always had hoped that we would get something that would be so community encompassing."

Outlaw Partners co-producers in the PBR, Jacey and Andy Watson with Freestone Productions, joined Ladd in the initial dream for PBR and are now sharing in its successes. "I don't know if 10 years ago I would have seen myself get an extreme emotional feeling that I did this year," Jacey said. "I'm not a person that shows a lot of emotion. And for me, it felt intense this year." Jacey said after taking 2020 off due to the pandemic, it was amazing to hear the roar of the crowd once again.

The first year of PBR, Outlaw Partners brought Geyser Whitewater buses stacked with



In honor of the 10th anniversary of the Big Sky PBR, Geyser Whitewater employees replicated seating from the first year of the Big Sky PBR while watching the action on night one from atop a company bus. PHOTO BY JULIA BARTON



Junior Patrik Souza of Brazil rides WSM's Foghorn Leghorn for 91 points on Saturday night at the Big Sky PBR, earning him the title champion. PHOTO BY BAILEY MILL

rooftop rafts to the makeshift arena to help fill the place. On July 22, the opening Thursday night for this year's PBR, the bus returned to commemorate the early days.

Flint Rasmussen, a PBR entertainer in a league of his own, joked with the crowd between moments of excitement and gestured toward the bus. "They've got beer, they've got pizza and they haven't showered in weeks," he laughed at the raft guides, who raised their beers in salute.

Atop the bus, Hayley Schrope of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in Big Sky for her first summer, looks down on the arena in utter amazement. "It's funny that this is such a thing here," she said, two PBR beers clutched in her right hand. "I went to a rodeo in Florida, and this is so different because it's so part of the blood of Montana."

Indeed, sense of place is a large piece of what makes the Big Sky PBR so special. Though Big Sky has been known as a resort town since Big Sky Resort sprouted up in the '70s, the mountain town still enjoys celebrating its more classic Western lineage, as evident through the apparel draping PBR-goers each year. The Big Sky PBR has an exceptional way of articulating the blended culture, like raft guides in cowboy boots, through a series of moments.

"This is a great event," said Matt Kidd, managing director of Lone Mountain Land Company, this year's Big Sky PBR community partner. "We're so thankful to help to sponsor it, because it really brings the whole community together—locals and visitors alike."



A mutton buster holds on for one last second on Friday night before hitting the dirt. PHOTO BY JULIA BARTON

For some youngsters, the Big Sky PBR is their first introduction to the Western lifestyle. Craig White and Gretchen Fellerhoff-White, owners of Bar Quarter Circle Ranch in Bozeman, have provided sheep for the mutton bustin' event at the Big Sky PBR for the last eight years. During an intermission between bull rides, small kids under 60 pounds sit atop the Whites' sheep, clutching wool with determination while the sheep charge through the arena until the rider falls off.

Though the rides are often only a few seconds—some end before they even start—the event brought the crowd to its feet this year just as much as the bull riding. The Whites say they enjoy watching kids who didn't grow up on ranches interact with the sheep, and of course that triumphant moment when the little champion thrusts their trophy, often as big as them, into the air with pride.

On Friday night, another 3-foot-tall cowboy, Tucker Brennecke, age 6, made a memorable appearance in the arena during the dance-off, a PBR tradition, when he flung himself on the ground, kicking his feet in the air and spinning in circles to the echoing applause of the audience.

"I was nervous, but I said to myself 'don't worry, I'm good at this," he said after celebrating his dance-off win and Murdoch's gift card with his friends in the bleachers. "It's just dancing."

The crowd comes for the bucking bulls, but it's moments like these that transform the event from a few hours of entertainment to community tradition, one that has not gone unnoticed.



A bull rider displays strong form at the Big Sky PBR with one hand in the air and the other grasping the rope. PHOTO BY JULIA BARTON $\,$

"I'm just blown away: 10 years," said Bill Simkins, manager of Simkins Holdings LLC and Big Sky Town Center developer, whose family is leasing the land the temporary PBR arena sits on to Outlaw Partners. "I never would have imagined it would be like this with the energy and all the people here. It's a busy transformation in this community. If someone came in a time warp here today from 10 years ago, they wouldn't recognize it."

Rasmussen, who has as much spirit as he did when he performed at the first Big Sky PBR, says the fans in Big Sky have grown to love the sport and have learned how it works.

"They boo the judges, they cheer for the riders, they cheer for the bulls. The whole thing has evolved into something I never thought it would here, honestly," he said before heading out on the dirt for night two after a rowdy night one.

"That was the craziest Thursday night I've ever seen in my life since college, maybe," he said reflecting on this year's opening evening, which event producers also called the best opening night in Big Sky PBR history. "That goes to [show] how the people have grown with this event and learned that when they step in here ... we adapt to the uniqueness of the locale we're in, and they know we're going to put on a quality show and it's going to be fun."

Part of that fun this year included Rasmussen crowd surfing, something Jacey says she can't recall him ever doing.

While the Big Sky PBR is well-loved locally, it's also nationally revered. The event has won PBR Event of the Year seven times and along with West and Rasmussen, attracts big industry names behind the scenes.

Cord McCoy, former PBR rider-turned-stock contractor, arrived in Big Sky a few days before the PBR and was perhaps the only person walking around town with real spurs on his boots. McCoy, who hails from Atoka, Oklahoma, has been a part of the Big Sky PBR since it was merely an idea. This year, he chatted it up with the crowd inside the arena and also muscled ropes on the bulls behind the chutes.

"I got to be a part of the first year when it came to Big Sky and I fell in love with it, with the producers, the Outlaw Partners and the rest of the crew," McCoy said. Now, he's grateful to bring his own family to Big Sky and share both the mountains and what he calls "one of the best PBR events in the world" with his wife, Sara, and two-year-old daughter, Tulsa.



Famed PBR entertainer Flint Rasmussen crowd-surfs in what he dubbed the "whiskey crowd." PHOTO BY JULIA BARTON

Another big name in PBR world, Chad Berger, premiere PBR stock contractor and owner of Chad Berger Bucking Bulls, has also been bringing his fleet of choice bulls to the Big Sky event since it began.

"This one is the coolest events of them all because of the scenery, the [sold-out] crowds every night, the atmosphere is just electric," Berger said while getting ready for opening night. "You have to have great bulls and great riders to have great rides, and Big Sky provides that."

True to Berger's claim, both riders and bulls were in top shape this year. Dalton Kasel, 22, won the Big Sky PBR in 2019 and returned this year to take home the most prize money of any rider. On Friday night, Kasel, the No. 22 rider in the world, rode a bounty bull for the chance at \$10,000. And just before he mounted the bull, Outlaw Partners upped the prize money to \$20,000.

The men working in the chutes behind the proverbial theater curtain of the PBR strain their arms against the ropes around Kasel's bull, Lil Bit Crazy, the tension building both on the dirt and in the stands.

Lil Bit Crazy ripped out of the chute with fury, but Kasel completed his eight second ride in consummate style.

That Friday night, Jacey said, was the most matched she's ever seen the crowd and the riders. What the riders put out, the crowd gave back. "It doesn't happen like that very often," she said.

Saturday night, the bulls came out especially passionate and ready to put up a fight. The first several riders failed to complete a full ride, and many bulls lingered in the arena long after they threw their rider from their back, some even charging the three L&K bullfighters. Bull riders thanked the fighters, slinging arms over their shoulders and bumping fists, and Outlaw Partners and Haas Construction awarded the intrepid men with bonuses for their valor.

In an intense championship round on Saturday, Junior Patrik Souza, the No. 7-ranked rider in the world, rode WSM's Foghorn Leghorn for a whopping 91 points, earning him the overall event win and a collective take-home of \$33,606. That last day, Outlaw Partners, Lone Mountain Land Company and Lone Mountain Ranch pooled together to double the money pot, setting records for cowboy payouts at the Big Sky PBR.



On night three, some of Big Sky PBR's key community sponsors, 10-year event veterans, producers and organizers met on the dirt to be recognized at the 10th anniversary. PHOTO BY BAILEY MILL

"This event has been able to garner some success, but we've continued to scale up and figure out ways to take care of people," Ladd said.

Bull riders weren't the only ones walking away with cash in their pockets. This year's Calcutta auction raised over a quarter million dollars, setting a record for the Big Sky event. Saturday night's auction marked records for both gross Calcutta—with a single-night total of \$128,500—as well as an individual team bid of \$35,000. Half of Calcutta money is donated to charity.

At the end of the championship night, Souza stepped into the ring of fire to accept his award: cash, a Sandy Epstein statue, a Montana Silversmiths Big Sky PBR belt buckle, a Gibson guitar, a trip to Seven Stars Resort Turks & Caicos, a commemorative bottle of Bozeman Spirits Montana Cold Spring Huckleberry Vodka and a custom Big Sky PBR rifle by Commemorative Firearms. He thanked everyone involved for making his dreams come true. The crowd cheered from the bleachers for the last time that night, the final expression of gratitude for having witnessed greatness.

A unique culture rides on the back of the PBR; a silent cowboy camaraderie shared through hat tips, handshakes and collective hope for eight seconds of wonder. The riders and bulls alike bring with them a kind of celebrity that is rooted in the West but celebrated globally, and a stoic humility that pairs well with the boiling energy of the crowd.

Every year since 2011 that the PBR has come to Big Sky, this culture settles into the dirt in the Big Sky Events Arena and takes a seat in the bleachers, waiting to be joined by new and loyal fans under the big sky to create magic.

"I hope my grandkids could still come to the Big Sky PBR," McCoy said, an eager gleam in his eye. Ladd hopes so, too. Because the goal for the PBR, as with any time-honored community event, is not unlike that of a bull rider; for each ride, and, according to Alberta's Logan Biever, for a bull rider's career: "Stay on as long as you can."

A look at Big Sky's Biggest Week

































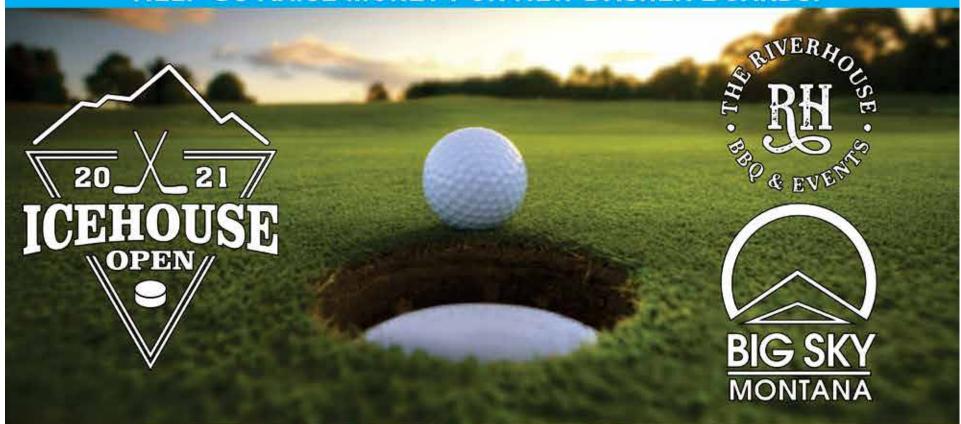








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SECTION 2:

ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOORS AND SPORTS







Q&A: Search and Rescue grows

Volunteer organization gains funding, full-time positions



Julian Gerardi poses with his dog Tika on his lot in Porcupine Park. PHOTO BY STEPHANIE BYAM

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – For 29 years, Gallatin County Sheriff Search and Rescue Big Sky Section has been finding lost hikers, digging skiers out of avalanches and even rescuing rafters and kayakers from swift river currents. While this work may sound like a full-time gig, Big Sky's SAR team is an organization of volunteers.

When the call for help goes out, members of SAR drop what they're doing, whether that be dinner with their family or even their day job, and spring into action.

The Big Sky Section of SAR began in 1992 when Ed Hake, longtime Big Sky local and owner of guiding service Canyon Adventures, along with five other locals, recognized a need in Big Sky and stepped up. Hake explained that response times from the valley were slow for emergencies in Big Sky. The growing town was getting busier and utilizing SAR resources more.

"We're not paid to do this, we do it because we see it as a need for the community," Hake said. "We always need more people to step up in the community."

The recent growth of SAR prompted the addition of two mills on the ballot which passed in 2020 bringing the total number of mill levies funding the organization to three. According to Scott Secor, GCSSAR captain, this brought SAR's budget up to \$1.1 million and provided three new full-time paid positions, including Secor's as well as a training coordinator held by Jason Revisky, and an administrative assistant, Erin Metzger. Currently, Big Sky SAR has 31 members on its roster.

All three new positions are part of the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, and the new expanded budget will be used for operations, personnel and building space, according to Secor.

One SAR member, Julian Gerardi, has been on the team approximately 14 years. He moved to Montana from Vermont in 2005 on a whim, a decision he's happy with 16 years later.

"Julian puts in a ton of time," Hake said of the longtime volunteer. "Not only is he part of Big Sky Search and Rescue, he's also very involved with the Heli team out of Bozeman. So, he's going to meetings there going to meetings up here, coordinating trainings between us and the Heli team."

Explore Big Sky recently sat down with Gerardi to learn more about his time on the SAR team and understand what makes volunteering for this elite group gratifying.

Some answers have been edited for brevity.

Explore Big Sky: How did you end up in Big Sky?

Julian Gerardi: I grew up in Vermont and I had several friends that moved away and were living out here. In 2003, the mother of one of the friends said, 'You have got to go visit my son,' and she bought me a plane ticket to come out here, it was awesome. I skied in the Bridgers nearly every day for three weeks straight and fell in love with the place. I thought to myself, man, if I ever had the opportunity maybe I would move out West. About a year and a

half later, the summer of $2005\ldots I$ said goodbye to my parents, met up with my friends [and] we left in a small convoy for Montana where I've been ever since.

EBS: How did you become involved with Search and Rescue here?

J.G: I've worked in the building industry since high school and in 2007 I started working for Highline Partners in Big Sky [and] who I'm still with today. I oversee projects from start to finish as a site superintendent. One of our principals, Todd Thesing, was very involved in Search and Rescue and was actually the president of Big Sky SAR for a while. I joined the GCSSAR Alpine Team, which does high angle rope rescue work and the Hasty Team, which is predominantly a backcountry wintertime incident response team. A couple years later I was also invited to join the helicopter team which does all kinds of cool mountain missions include short hauling ... In 2012, I ended up moving from Bozeman here to Big Sky ... so I joined Big Sky Search and Rescue here also.

EBS: Why did you become involved with SAR?

J.G.: I have had a lot of injuries myself; I've always unfortunately been a pretty accident-prone person. Luckily, I have never had to call SAR for help to get out of the mountains, but I appreciate the fact that there's this incredible group of people who are willing to drop everything and come when needed. I thoroughly enjoy being a part of the search and rescue community and all the teams: we're a big family. We look out for each other and have a lot of fun together.

EBS: What is the most rewarding part of being on the Big Sky section of SAR?

J.G.: When you can really help someone who's hurt, lost or in trouble and see that they are genuinely grateful that is just a really satisfying feeling. Frequently, people we've helped will later reach out with a call, a thank you note or even a donation to SAR to tell us how grateful they are. Additionally, just being able to pull off some of the more technical rescues; for an unpaid, volunteer team, we pull off some incredible stuff. I'm always so proud of my team and how everyone always gives it everything they've got.





Gerardi stands in front of Granite Peak, the tallest mountain in Montana, immediately after flying a Short Haul mission on the peak in the Beartooths. PHOTO BY ANDY DRIESBACH

EBS: What training or qualifications do you need to be on SAR's Big Sky section?

J.G: We want everyone who joins BSSAR to have or get their Wilderness First Responder and or EMT within the first year. We really encourage people to have as much training and experience as possible. We also do a broad spectrum of trainings every year including medical trainings and refreshers, work with our radios and GPS. Typically avalanche education and rescue training [in] early winter and swiftwater training for river rescues in the spring. Rope work for high-angle patient raises and lowering in technical terrain. We also train on the equipment that can help get us to a patient quickly and get them out of the woods like snowmobiles and ATV's.

EBS: Do you have a favorite memory or experience from your time with the Big Sky Section of SAR?

J.G.: I have a lot of fond memories from working with SAR. All the shared experiences both good and bad with my teammates; a lot of highs and lows. Slogging through the wilderness and some extremely physically demanding type II fun. Something that really stands out is our snowmobile trainings. I've always loved winter and the mountains. I grew up ski racing in Vermont and when I moved here I got into backcountry skiing. As is a natural progression for many, I bought a snowmobile to assist with that and then totally turned into a sledneck. I really enjoy putting on sled trainings and being able to show and teach my teammates some techniques for how to be a better snowmobiler as well as all the awesome places you can go on them. Being on the short haul team has also been a highlight. There is nothing like dangling below a helicopter on a 150-foot rope and being dropped off or picked up from a precarious position on a mountainside.

EBS: What would you want people visiting the area to know? **J.G:** Make sure that you have a plan and are educated and well prepared for whatever you're getting yourself into. Do activities with a partner whenever you can. Make sure you tell someone not going on the adventure with you what your plan is and to call for help if you are not back by a predetermined time. Having a way to call for help yourself is also a good idea. Have your cell phone on you and charged even if you're in the backcountry and outside of cell service. If you're lost, the military has some technology to find a cell phone even when you can't make a call. This comes into play on extended multiday searches. The satellite messengers available today are also an incredible resource.

If you truly need help, call as soon as possible. Despite all our resources, it can take a long time to reach you. We are an entirely volunteer organization so our members need to respond from home, work or whatever activity they are currently doing.

Be sure to look at the weather forecast but also know that they are not always accurate. Mountain weather is difficult to predict, and conditions can change very quickly. Surprise thunderstorms and even snow in the summer is not out of the ordinary, so be prepared, bring plenty of food, water and layers. Also be bear aware. Always carry bear spray in bear country and know how to use it. Think about and talk with your partners ahead of time and have a plan for if things go south and know how you would handle an emergency situation.

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Pumped Up

Community bike park gets a facelift

BY DAVID TUCKER EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Swing by the Big Sky Community Park and you'll likely notice all the familiar sights, like the softball fields, playground and skate park. But look closer and something new will catch your eye: a rebuilt pump track for Big Sky's growing mountain bike population.

Through a partnership with the Big Sky Community Organization, the Big Sky Chapter of the Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association got to work this summer on raising funds, finalizing designs and moving dirt for what will eventually be a 9,000 square foot bike park. Trail builder and park designer Integrated Trail Lab is responsible for both phases of the build, and Phase 1 wrapped Wednesday, July 21 with a final volunteer effort at the Community Park.



Volunteers Big Sky SWMMBA board members, and community partners gathered on the evening of July 21 to finish building Phase 1 of the pump track at the Big Sky Community Park. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SWMMBA BIG SKY CHAPTER

THE SWMMBA BIG SKY CHAPTER

project a reality through

Over the smell of grilling hot dogs and with the now-ubiquitous wildfire smoke hanging in the air, SWMMBA Big Sky board members, the trail builders, volunteers and community partners put the final touches on the project's first phase.

Using tampers and rakes provided by chapter sponsors at Ace Hardware - Big Sky, berms were smoothed out, rocks were racked free of dirt and anxious riders packed down the final product.

"When we sat down one year ago to come up with a list of goals, rebuilding the community pump track was at the top of the list," said Regan Teat, SWMMBA Big Sky chapter president. "By supporting our fundraising and volunteer efforts this summer, Big Sky showed up in full force to make this happen. We've proven as a community that we are committed to expanding biking opportunities and investing in trail infrastructure moving forward."

As is so often the case in Big Sky, collaborative efforts from a variety of partners made this goal a reality, from individual community members buying merch at the farmers' market, to community foundations granting thousands of dollars of support. Before even a dollar was raised, however, the partnerships were already in play. The pump track is being built on Big Sky Community Organization land, which the nonprofit is providing to improve the park resource.

"We're excited to announce the complete renovation of the Community Park Pump Track by Integrated Trail Lab, made possible by the collaboration of SWMMBA Big Sky and the BSCO," said BSCO Parks & Trails director Adam Johnson. "It will provide a space to learn and develop bike-handling skills for all ability levels."

"The Big Sky chapter of SWMMBA made the project a reality through their fundraising efforts, and BSCO looks forward to working with them on more trail projects to improve the trail system in the Big Sky area," Johnson continued.

While Phase 1 of the pump track rebuild is already a significant upgrade, this is just the beginning. Phase 2 more than doubles the square footage and will include the eventual asphalting of the entire track. This allows bikers to ride almost year-round and cuts down on the regular maintenance that dirt-only pump tracks require. While the dirt is still settling on Phase 1 of the project, fundraising and planning for Phase 2 is well underway. Visit donorbox.org/swmmba-bigsky-pumptrack to make your contribution today.

David Tucker is the director of outreach for the Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association.

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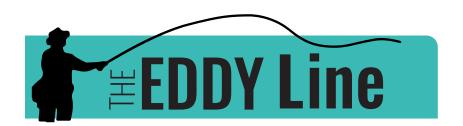


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The coldest water around Montana's spring creeks



Spring creeks offer clear and cold water when many of our rivers are suffering from warm water and low flows. Consider fishing a spring creek if you desire to keep fishing during the peak of our summer heat. PHOTO BY PATRICK STRAUB

BY PATRICK STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

The last week of July often brings the peak of our summer heat. This year we've also experienced unprecedented hot and dry conditions. Pair those with a drier-than-normal spring season and we're now seeing an abundance of river restrictions and closures.

These restrictions and closures are management tools implemented by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to ensure the long-term health of our wild trout populations. For decades Montana has allowed for natural reproduction of the trout that swim in our rivers. If these trout become stressed because of loss of habitat due to low water or find it hard to survive because of warm water temperatures, the future of our fisheries are in doubt.

So, what's an angler to do when weighing a decision to fish or not? The cold-water spring creek options here in Montana can serve up a respite for anglers desiring to fish cold water.

Spring creeks of Paradise Valley

South of Livingston are three well-known spring-fed creeks. Nelson's, DePuy's and Amrstrong's spring creeks offer small-stream fly fishing in water that runs clear and cold every day of the year. Occurring naturally and emerging from the ground with water temperatures rarely topping 54 degrees, these creeks are home to plenty of wild trout.

All three creeks are located on private property and require anglers to make reservations in advance and pay a trespass fee. The fee in summer is commensurate to a day of skiing at Big Sky Resort. For anglers fishing the creeks for the first time, hiring a local guide is encouraged, but not required.

Nelson's Spring Creek is the smallest of the creeks. Averaging less than 50 feet wide, the owners of the creek have carefully restored and managed the habitat to create a unique stream with a variety of water. From riffles and pools to long runs, a day fly fishing Nelson's Spring Creek is as pleasant as it can be challenging.

Armstrong's Spring Creek on the O'Hair Ranch is the source of the largest spring creek in Paradise Valley. With the water emerging from the ground in a scenic, mini cascade, Armstrong's Spring Creek flows for a little over a mile before flowing into the DePuy Ranch, where it becomes DePuy's Spring

Creek. With several riffles and deep pools, fly fishing Armstrong's Spring Creek has an enjoyable mix of sight-fishing coupled with prospecting with small dry flies.

DePuy's Spring Creek flows for a little over three miles and has the greatest variety of all the Paradise Valley spring creeks. With several sections flowing through fields of tall grasses, DePuy's is the best option for anglers who enjoy casting a grasshopper pattern in hopes to tricking an opportunistic trout.

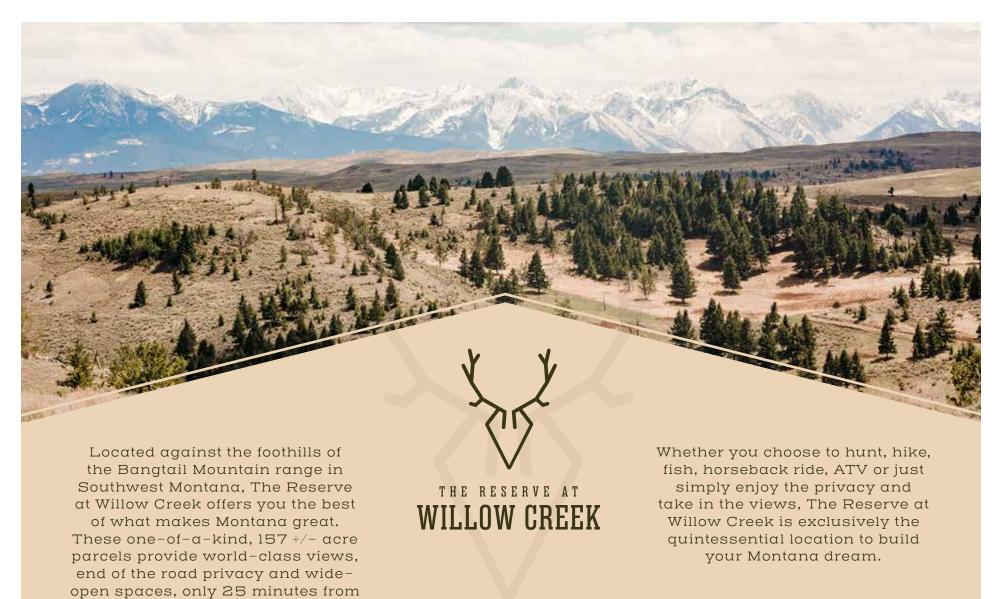
And a little farther from home...

Big Spring Creek near Lewistown is a long drive from our area, but it is the largest spring creek in Montana. With ample public fishing access sites along its reach, anglers looking for a spring creek angling experience who have more time than money can make the long road-trip to this central Montana stream.

At some point in every angler's progression, fishing a spring creek should be experienced. The creeks listed here offer a variety of angling options—from crystal-clear technical waters to riffle-filled waters with less finicky trout. For those other days you are wanting to fish but unsure of the best approach in this summer's heat, consider some of the advice for fishing in the summer heatwave contained in my previous column.

Patrick Straub has fished on five continents. He is the author of six books, including "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing" and has been writing the Eddy Line for nine years. He was one of the largest outfitters in Montana, but these days he now only guides anglers who value quality over quantity.





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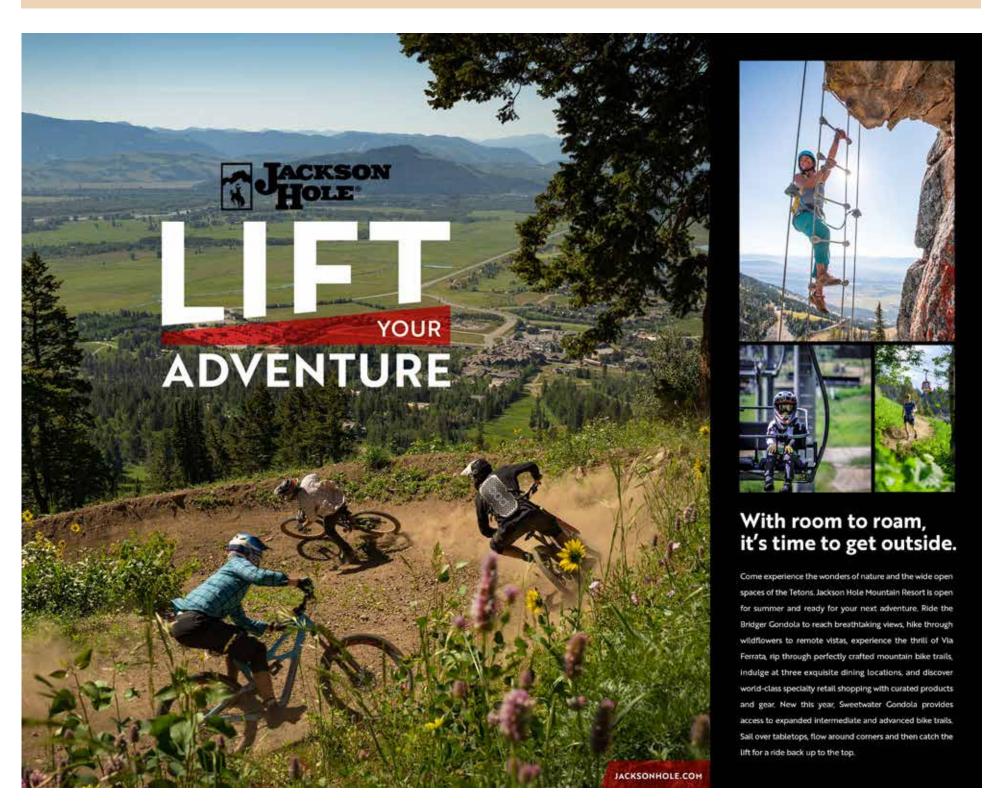
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BY SARA MARINO **EBS OUTDOOR COLUMNIST**

If you're looking for a quiet spot to take the kids to play or throw a line in the water, Kircher Discovery Park fits the bill. Easily accessed from both Meadow Village and Town Center, this 0.5-mile out-and-back trail provides a wonderful nature walk.

Kircher Trail spurs off the asphalt-surfaced Lone Peak Trail near the intersection of Lone Mountain Trail and Little Coyote Road. From here, there is a short descent on a well-maintained natural surface trail suitable for walkers and strollers, just be ready for the uphill on the way out.



A view of Kircher Fort, PHOTO BY SARA MARINO

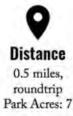
As you get close to the bottom of the hill, please respect the area closed for revegetation, and continue on the main trail. There you'll find picnic tables in a wooded and shady area, great for hot summer days. Keep following the trail to the left to get to the main attraction, a 500-square-foot tree fort designed to look like a ship, complete with multi-level decking, slides, a spider swing and climbing wall.

There are several obvious paths to easily access the South Fork of the Gallatin River where you can test

On the Trail: **Kircher Discovery Park**

your fishing abilities, dip your toes in the water and let your furry friends get a drink and cool off.

Bring a water bottle, a picnic, bug spray, and your sense of adventure and imagination to the pirate ship in the woods for mateys of all ages.









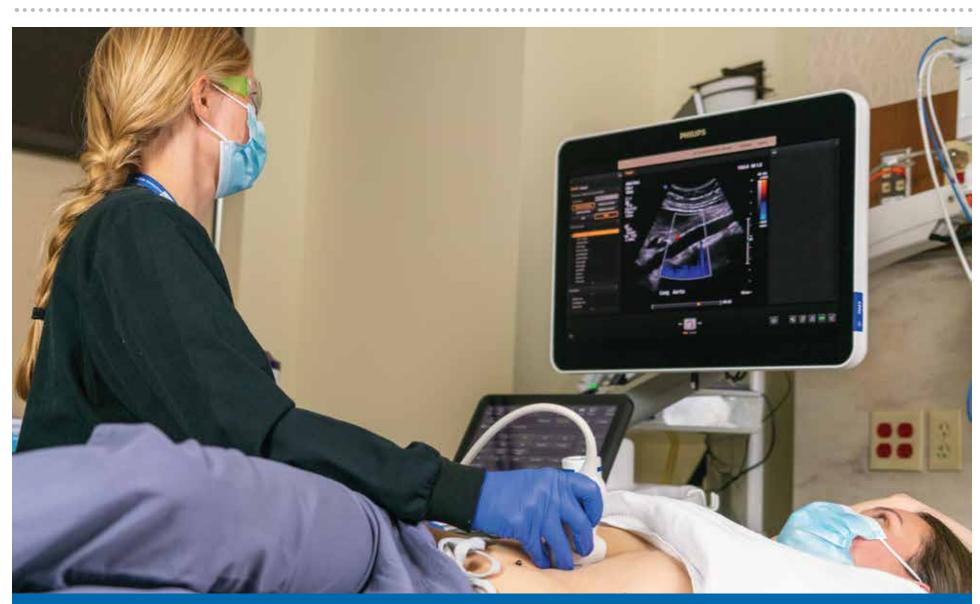
Amenities: Tree fort play structure, picnic tables, fishing access, porta potty at trailhead

Directions: The Kircher Discovery Park is located at 1964 Lone Mountain Trail. There is no parking lot. Park in the Meadow Village and use the flashing beacons and crosswalk at the junction of Lone Mountain Trail and Little Coyote Road or access via the BSCO Lone Peak Trail then down the Kircher Trail.

A similar version of this story ran in a 2019 edition of Explore Big Sky.

Sara Marino is the BSCO community development manager.

For more information about Big Sky's parks, trails and recreation programs, visit bscomt.org. The Big Sky Community Organization engages and leads people to recreational and enrichment opportunities through thoughtful development of partnerships, programs and places.



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A bouquet of weeds

Annual contest stresses importance of native vs. nonnative species

BY GABRIELLE GASSER AND MIRA BRODY

BIG SKY – On the evening of July 20 at Crail Ranch, beautiful bouquets arrived for the second annual Noxious Weed Bouquet Contest. Although glamorous, Jennifer Mohler, executive director of the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance, aims to use the event to educate the community about the importance of native species, dangers of invasive species and the repercussions even a single Oxeye daisy can have on the surrounding landscape.

"Oxeye daisy, which is in full bloom right now around Big Sky, it's a very pretty flower," Mohler said. "It was brought in as an ornamental, it escaped the garden and it can really dominate a landscape and cause detrimental impacts on the environment."

The Noxious Weed Bouquets Contest began last year, an idea Mohler says had been brewing for a while. Her motivations for starting the event were threefold: to offer a bright light in the summer during the pandemic, to bring more people to the Crail Ranch native plant demonstration gardens and educate them about water wise landscaping, and to host something fun and unique.

"It was just sort of a bummer of a year, and I thought 'you know what, I'm just going to make this happen," Mohler said. "I knew like three people of my same kind of plant-crazy friends who I knew would do it, and [we] were blown away with the turnout. It turned out to be super fun, really creative."

This year's contest was a hit. Contestants came by at 5 p.m. to register, submit their bouquets and enjoy live music, refreshments and cornhole while judges cast their votes. Judges included Lorri Lagerbloom, board member of the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance, Kristin Kern, owner of the Hungry Moose and Megan Beucking, education and outreach director at the Arts Council.



Zoe and Charlotte Zuckerman entered a bouquet in the youth division and won first place for their creation. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER



Kristin Downer (right) and Ann McGraw (left) pose with their award-winning noxious weed bouquets. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

It's a great way to make something beautiful and learn about plants, explains Mohler. Participants are instructed to gather invasive plants for their bouquets and are docked points if they use native wildflowers. In the adult division, first place went to Kristin Downer, who got a Hungry Moose gift basket, and second place went to Ann McGraw, who won a beautiful custom pottery vase with the Crail Garden logo. Zoe and Charlotte Zuckerman

won first place in the youth division receiving a custom pottery vase as well as a yeti tumbler and a Crail Garden mug.

"... Some of our noxious weeds are beautiful," said Mohler. "In fact, they were brought here as ornamental plants for our landscapes and soon revealed their invasive nature. Thus, the event's goal is to educate folks about these 'beautiful invaders' and encourage people to actively manage them. Which can be as simple as pulling, enjoying them in a bouquet, and then bagging and disposing of properly to prevent seed spread."

Mohler hopes that participants walk away with a deeper understanding of the plants that reside in the landscape they call home, and the role they play in Big Sky's diverse ecosystem. They not only add color to our backdrop, but also pay a major role in the area's water health, soil health and food chain, starting with native insects. In fact, Mohler says 90 percent of insects have developed specialized relationships with local native plants.

"If you build a landscape and use plants not native to Montana, our insects can't use it," Mohler said. "You're creating a food desert. What feeds our birds? Native insects. So they really are critical for providing that base of the food web."

Additionally, native plants need no soil amendments or fertilizers, making them low impact on the environment, stressing the importance of thoughtful landscaping.

Noxious weed bouquets are not limited to this annual event—the next time you're out enjoying one of Big Sky's numerous trails, keep an eye out for invasive species. After affirming they are invasive, clip them and arrange your own bouquet at home to do your part in removing them from the ecosystem, while still enjoying their beauty.

THE NEW WEST



BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

The other night, I had the honor of standing before the Gallatin Wildlife Association whose members were marking the 45th year of their organization's existence.

I riffed on "radical thinking," the true meaning of courage, gray hairs and knowledge based on real life experience in trying—and sometimes

failing—to save natural places from despoilation.

It has become fashionable of late for people to claim that all old, gray-haired conservationists are over the hill, senescent, racist and on their way to dementia in the nursing home—expired beyond their useable shelf life.

Such ageist claims are at best naïve.

In indigenous communities, those in the autumn years of life are venerated for their accumulated wisdom that can only come through longevity, of having covered miles of terrain, of trying to make sense of struggle, pain and sorrow—of having perspective.

I also noted how, in the current social environment, many conservation groups today seem to have lost their backbone. Many shy away from anything perceived to be "controversial" or "contentious" and they approach conservation as if they are trying to win a popularity contest, not considering that being foresighted and ahead of one's time often is an unpopular and uncomfortable place to be.

Every good thing we love about public lands today, including healthy wildlife populations and beautiful landscapes have come as a result of conflict.

When the fate of rare, wild country is on the line and in danger of despoilation, conflict cannot be avoided because it requires that citizens rise and stand up for wildlife

and landscapes that have no voice, defying a status quo mentality that knows no limit to natural resource consumption.

This kind of thinking serves as a counterpoint to those who superficially base almost every decision on dollars and cents, not what the intrinsic, innate worth of nondegraded landscapes are.

Yellowstone itself was a notion borne by radicals. Had local white settlers around Gardiner, Montana, been in charge and had those people serving in the Montana Territorial legislature had their way, the national park might never have been created. In fact, it was the foresighted vision of a few brave members of Congress who were thinking ahead of their own time.

No great conservation achievement in America has ever happened without defying the unimaginative and the status quo. Were the idea of setting aside Yellowstone and her neighbor, Grand Teton National Park, proposed today, amid the cultural division, the ridiculous anti-science positions of lawmakers, and the sometimes weak-kneed, conflict-averse mavens of "collaboration," those parks and the public lands surrounding them might not exist or, at best, they'd be half-hearted vestiges of what they are.

The Gallatin Wildlife Association has staked out unpopular positions, to be sure. For example, its members have had the audacity to say that Montana ought

What is radical?

We benefit today from those who bucked status quo

to have its own wild bison herd located in the Missouri Breaks and the C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, the latter named after the famous Western painter who depicted bison there in his end-of-the-frontier scenes.

GWA members have questioned the wisdom of allowing domestic sheep to graze public lands in close proximity to wild mountain (bighorn) sheep that are vulnerable to catching diseases from domestic livestock and being wiped out. The organization has advocated for development setbacks from river corridors to keep them attractive and useable for wildlife, and to prevent failing septic systems from leaking into waterways. And GWA has questioned the dubious and disproved assertion that more than 11,000 Yellowstone bison had to be slaughtered in Montana based on fear over brucellosis.

These positions, whether you agree with them or not, take guts; and, even if you don't agree, they are advanced foremost to protect wildlife over the usual prevailing focus on doing things only to benefit humans, which applies to most lands in the Lower 48.

Not long ago, a famous Bozeman writer friend and I had a chat. We agreed that the level of ecological awareness in Greater Yellowstone was actually higher a quarter century ago; that the inundation of newcomers from urban areas has diluted environmental consciousness and weakened the willingness of citizens to embrace self-restraint for a common good, which includes protecting our wildlife.



If left to the prevailing consensus and collaboration models of modern conservation, which are conflict averse, Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks could never be created today. Defying the status quo is the only way we're going to save wildlife from development pressures going forward. PHOTO COURTESY OF NEAL HERBERT/NPS

human population trends and climate change, to get land protection right and one test is right in our backyard.

We have one opportunity, given

If you took the Gallatin Range and dropped it into California, it would be the wildest mountain range in the state due to the full diversity of wildlife that still lives there. If you dropped those mountains into Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Utah, it would be the same. The Gallatin Range, with its full mammalian diversity, accentuated by avians and fish, would be wilder than any national park in the West outside of Yellowstone, Grand Teton and Glacier national parks.

The Gallatin Range is nothing short of being the Yellowstone of our time and the question before us is: Are we

going to be future-minded and set aside maximum space for wildness or are we going to capitulate to the status quo, the establishment, that has the same kind of narrowminded thinking as the Montana Territorial legislature?

The bold pro-conservation positions that we stake out today will not be perceived as radical in the future. Generations whom we will never know will gaze backward with gratitude, the same as we do now to our ancestors.

The youngsters need to know that the world does not spin around you, no more than it spun around we gray hairs when we were the same age as you are now.

Conservation, like politics and visionary land stewardship, often doesn't involve telling your friends what they want to hear regarding the consumption of wildlands for human fun and profit. Sometimes, it requires us telling our friends that we really ought to consider the needs of beings other than ourselves. Is that radical?

Todd Wilkinson is the founder of Bozeman-based Mountain Journal and is a correspondent for National Geographic. He also authored of the book "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek," featuring photography by Thomas D. Mangelsen, about famous Jackson Hole grizzly bear 399. Read his latest article on renowned actress Glenn Close in the summer 2021 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.

Hard lessons from the border



BY GARY PAUL NABHAN WRITERS ON THE RANGE

The wall between the U.S. and Mexico has come to stand for desperation and suffering for many people. For most of us who live within 20 miles of this 452-mile wall, it's also seen as a bizarre experiment: How much damage can ripple into the surrounding landscape from a wall that cuts a 60-foot swath through the natural world?

The term "crisis" also describes the border with Mexico. Water that once flowed, wildlife that needs to roam, and religious pilgrims – none know political boundaries. Yet to build this wall, vegetation was wiped away, roads bulldozed over mountains, waterways blocked and groundwater depleted by pumping. Lighting that never goes off has been installed on top of steel barriers 30 feet high.

Animals have been blocked from migration; their food chains disrupted. Now, exotic weeds, insects and diseases can use the lengthy scar as a nick point for invasion, ultimately disrupting far more than what human border-crossers can do.

Meanwhile, the many people involved in borderland alliances have learned hard lessons from this wall, and the lessons need to be shared.

First, any effort to protect and restore what's been harmed must engage the First Nations of this continent, who still live along one-fifth of the border, from San Diego, California to Brownsville, Texas.

Any "environmental protection" coalition that lacks Native American elders and professionals among its leaders will not get far. Vice President Kamala Harris and Interior Secretary Deb Haaland need to ensure that all agencies err on the side of more inclusiveness and environmental justice for all.

Second, when we neglect to listen to the voices of ranchers, farmers and other private land stewards along the border, everyone stands to lose.

Coalitions involving tough Texas property owners did far better at getting some concessions from Homeland Security than did coalitions in other states. At first, federal agency professionals and activists largely dismissed the concerns of ranchers and farmers who said they wanted better border security, but not a 30-foot wall.

In southeastern Arizona, the situation was different. As early as 2010, the Malpai Borderlands Group in Southeastern Arizona and adjacent New Mexico developed and

implemented a tight border security plan. But its on-ground success was ignored by Homeland Security's right-wing ideologues and discounted by left-wing activists who opposed any form of border security.

Third, we need to rally people around concerns that are universally shared. One is the need to better protect artesian springs and flowing watercourses from groundwater pumping and blockage of stream flows. At least 80 percent of all neotropical birds and bats migrating between the U.S. and Mexico rely on wetland stopovers on or near the border. These water sources are also crucial to ranchers' livestock, farmers' food crop irrigation and local wildlife, especially as severe to exceptional drought affects every Western state.

Unfortunately, border activists failed to sufficiently recruit the support of food producers and waterfowl enthusiasts on the corridors north and south of the border to protect these vulnerable links. Now, we need their support to remove wall segments and floodgates that block transborder streams and wildlife movement.

Finally, one of our effective strategies for building broader coalitions to eke out some concessions was to link the protection of sacred sites at the border to constitutionally guaranteed religious freedoms granted to all Americans.

We rallied support of intertribal and interfaith organizations to denounce the way the wall would impact spiritual sanctuaries along the border, from Quitobaquito Springs in Pima County, Arizona to La Lomita Chapel in Mission, Texas. Spiritual leaders themselves should now direct the restoration of sanctuaries that were damaged in several states. And in Organ Pipe National Monument, cultural properties need to be fully returned to – or co-managed with – the Tohono O'odham and Hia-ced O'odham.

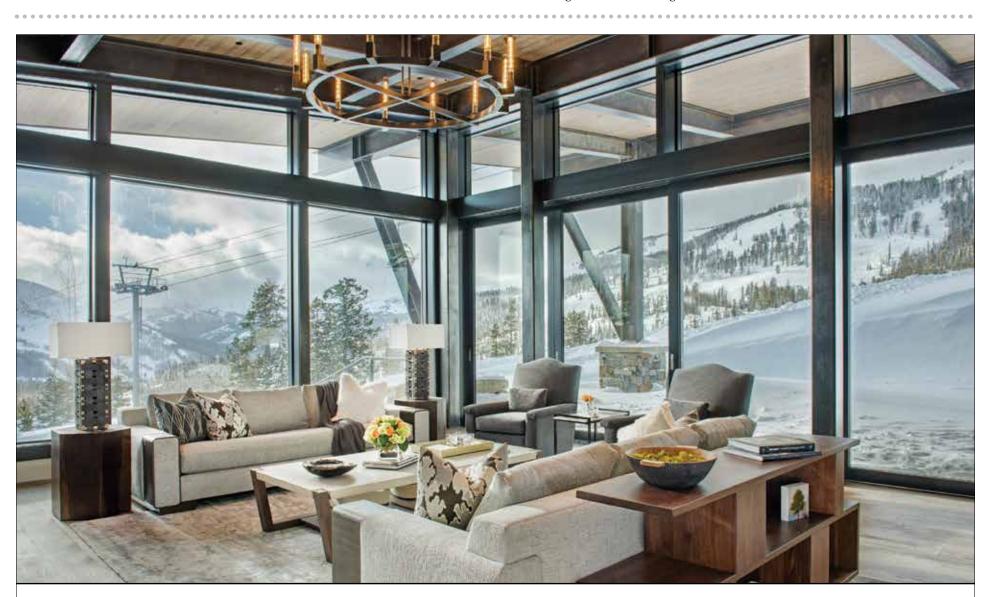
Many O'odham and Kumeyaay youth put their lives at risk to protect their "places of the heart" while agency professionals stood meekly aside.

Since then, the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council has passed a resolution granting "sacred personhood" to all saguaros in their aboriginal homelands. This puts agencies on notice that the mutilation of thousands of cacti will never happen again on their watch.

I believe that United States, Mexican and First Nations peoples can work together to heal the wounds in the border landscapes in ways that heal the divisions among us as well.

It's time to start.

Gary Paul Nabhan is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, a nonprofit spurring lively conversation about the West. He is a Franciscan Brother, conservation biologist, writer and agrarian activist living in the borderlands.





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Local athlete competes at Olympic Trials

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – For part-time Big Sky resident Chelsea Conway, the Olympics have always been just on the horizon.

As a competitive race walker, a sport that isn't well-known but boasts deep historical roots, Conway has battled injuries and bad timing, and in June of this year, she came within inches of a spot in Tokyo, placing 10th in the 20k women's race at the Olympic Trials in Eugene, Oregon – just five years after she came in 45 seconds shy of making the team at the Trials in 2016. Now, the 32-year-old CEO must decide if she'll continue the challenging path to becoming a bona fide Olympian.

Conway's career as a race walker began in junior high school when she started track, later transitioning to race walking as a sophomore. Growing up in Rochester, New York, Conway said she was lucky to attend a high school that offered race walking since many places don't have it.

By the end of high school, Conway had racked up three All-American finishes. While working toward her undergraduate degree from Lindsey

Wilson College in Kentucky, Conway garnered three collegiate All-American finishes. After graduating, she took her skills to the national stage.

"In 2011 I qualified for the outdoor nationals, so that was my first year competing at the highest USA level," Conway said. "I started training for the 2012 Olympic Trials, and from there, I ended up breaking my leg the February before the Olympic Trials so I was out of commission."

At that point, Conway changed course and earned her MBA from the University of Denver to better help her manage her family's business, Conway Beam Truck Group, a commercial truck dealership in Upstate New York.

In 2012 while she was in school, Conway's family bought a house in Big Sky. A year later, she spent her spring break at the new family home and tore her ACL while skiing, just months after rehabbing her broken leg.

"At that point the doctors were indicating that they didn't think I'd be able to race walk again just because between the two injuries, it was pretty tough on the sport," Conway said.

There are two rules in Race Walking. The first is that athletes must always have one foot in contact with the ground at all times, the second is that the knee of the athlete's advanced leg must not bend and the leg must straighten as their body passes over it.



Conway's family traveled out to Eugene, Oregon with her to cheer her on during the Olympic Race Walk Trials. PHOTO COURTESY OF CHELSEA CONWAY



Chelsea Conway competes in the 2021 women's Race Walk 20k Olympic Trial event. PHOTO COURTESY OF CHELSEA CONWAY

With a torn ACL and compromised range of motion, complying with these rules was made much more difficult because she couldn't keep her leg straight.

Conway moved back to Rochester after graduate school to immerse herself in the family business. Though she'd stepped into a larger role in Conway Beam Truck Group, Conway began training for race walking again and eventually reached the professional level for the second time in 2015, narrowly missing a chance to compete in the 2016 Olympic Trials.

"From there I was like, 'alright I'm going to keep training through 2020 and then see how that goes," Conway said. "I was ramping up my training the last few years working on my distance, because all of a sudden it went from a mile to a 20k. The Olympic distance is actually a 20k and that's a huge window to have."

When the 2020 Olympics were delayed during the pandemic, Conway said she was on the verge of calling her training quits. However, she found out that she had a chance at qualifying for the Olympic Trials by achieving a ranking as one of the top 15 athletes in the country, as opposed to

meeting the rigorous time requirement of 1:48 for completion of a 20k, and found new motivation to train.

In her prime, Conway said she would do about 70 miles a week, 90 percent of which was race walking. To fill her three hours a day of training, she incorporated cross training including swimming, biking and weight training in addition to race walking.

Conway said that during her training, she would come out to Big Sky to train at altitude and to ski as part of her cross-training regimen. Recently, the Conways finished designing and building a property in Big Sky dubbed Alpine Peak featuring state-of-the-art training facilities which include a basketball court, pool and gym.

On June 26, 2021, Conway went to Eugene, Oregon, to compete in the 20k race walk Olympic Trials, the farthest she had advanced on her road to the games. Fifteen women competed at the event and only one went on to the games currently taking place in Tokyo.

Conway said the event was high energy, calling it "the most exciting event I've ever been to." Though exciting, it wasn't without its challenges. "With the lack of events in the last year, it was really tough to get out and race and do events," Conway said.

The 20k race took place in difficult conditions. Conway said it was extremely hot with temperatures reaching up to 115 degrees, causing start times to be moved up two hours earlier to cooler parts of the morning.

Conway said she spent a lot of time and effort trying to keep herself hydrated and cool in anticipation of the challenging conditions she faced for the race. There were hydration stations throughout the route with electrolyte drinks and gels to help the athletes stay fueled and avoid dehydration and muscle cramps.

At the end of the race, Conway ended up placing 10th out of 15 women competing for the single female race walking spot in the 2021 summer games.

With one Olympic Trial now under her belt but no spot on the team, Conway has to decide if she will stick to her rigorous training regimen for another three years and take another shot at the Olympics or if she will turn her efforts to other tasks like triathlons.

Conway currently serves as the CEO and owner of the family business, a position that requires a lot of her time and leaves less flexibility for her to travel to races and keep up her training regimen.

"I'm going to make up my mind in the next year or so if I want to keep going or if I want to pull back and go more to triathlons and have fun with my athletic pursuits," she said.



BY MARK WEHRMAN EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

If you are having contact problems, you need to focus on what your lower body is doing during your swing. Most of the time if you have too much lower body movement your ball contact will be compromised. Too much lower body action will also affect your balance and if you can't finish in balance, then you are not swinging in balance. So, what does it mean to have too much lower body movement?

Too much lower body movement can involve several things. When the feet are moving in the backswing you will lose your connection to the ground and ultimately lose your balance. One of the most common flaws I see in the back swing is when people lift the heel of their lead foot off the ground.

This was a common move back in the days of Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson but you certainly won't see it in most of the modern-day golf swings. When you are rocking on to the outsides of your feet you will also find it hard to have solid connection at impact.

Another example of too much lower body movement is when you turn your hip too much in the backswing. The straightening of the right knee, for a

Contact is in the legs

right-handed golfer, usually coincides with too much hip turn. This action is called "losing the right side."

Ideally, we should be trying to do what is called the "X" factor. The "X" factor refers to the backswing and how the body is rotating. In the "X" factor, we rotate with the upper body and, at the same time, resist with the lower body. By doing this you are able to limit the lower body movement and more specifically limit the amount of leg movement and hip rotation. This will allow you to create a coil or the load we are trying to achieve in the backswing.

The purpose of the backswing is to store energy so we can release that stored energy through the ball. If you allow your lower body to move or rotate too much you will not be able to load behind the ball and essentially lose power and leverage, both of which help us create more clubhead speed.

So, please remember, your lower body is your base in the golf swing. If you are moving your base too much it will be very difficult to get the clubhead back on the ball, causing missed hits and a reduction in clubhead speed. If you make it a point to keep your base stable and limit your lower body movement you will, through time and practice, see more consistent contact.



PGA pro Mark Wehrman demonstrates the ideal amount of lower body movement during a golf swing. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK WEHRMAN $\,$



Lifting the left heel is one of the most common flaws that Wehrman sees in golf back swings. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK WEHRMAN



When your feet move in your backswing, it can cause a loss of balance and poor ball contact. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK WEHRMAN



Another example of too much lower body movement in a swing is turning your hips too much in the backswing. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK WEHRMAN

BIG SKY SOFTBALL 2021

Softball standings for the period of play from 7/15 to 7/26.

The Big Sky co-ed softball league is already approaching the end of the summer season with 11 days left in the regular season. There will be a tournament on Saturday, August, 28 and Sunday, August, 29.

TEAM NAME

WIN/LOSS

1. LPC GOLDEN GOATS	10-0
2. H. HUCKERS	10-1
3. BEARS	9-2
4. MILKIES	6-3
5. YELLOWSTONE CLUB	6-3
6. YETI	6-4
7. CAVE	6-5
8. LOTUS PAD	5-4
9. MOOSEKETEERS	5-5
10. CAB LIZARDS	5-7
11. W WILDCATS	3-4
12. BOMBERS	2-9
13. RUBES	1-8
14. B.S.BALLERS	1-10
15. MULLETS	0-11



Cord Halmes goes for the downs as the Huckers faced off against the Bears July 26. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

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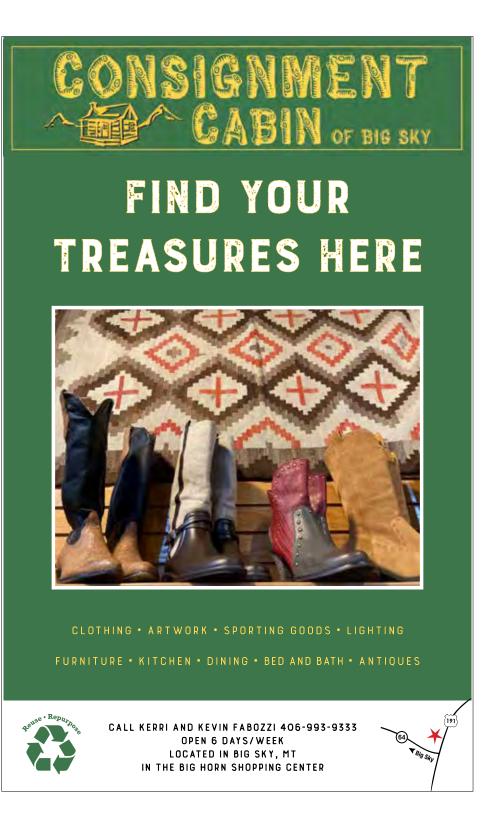
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SECTION 3: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT, BUSINESS, DINING & FUN







New park, same traditions

Music in the Mountains returns home to the new Len Hill Park

BY MIRA BRODY

BIG SKY – Blankets and chairs lay a patchwork across the new lawn at the Len Hill Park in Big Sky Town Center on the Thursday night of July 15 for Music in the Mountains. Sneaky Pete and the Secret Weapons, the Jackson-based funk rock band, warmed the audience under hazy skies. The free concert series, put on by the Arts Council of Big Sky, is nothing new, being in its 13th year, but the setting recently got a facelift.

"This is the first band we're having in our newly-created green space here, so we're super excited to have them back in Big Sky," said the Arts Council's Executive Director, Brian Hurlbut. "Let's give it up for—all the way from Jackson Hole, Wyoming—Sneaky Pete and the Secret Weapons."

It wasn't long before dancers were testing out the new graveled area in front of the stage and families were arriving with baskets of food, libations and a hunger for live music. As the sun set, the crowd grew, grabbing food from one of the many curbside food trucks and rejoining their friends and family on the lawn.

Len Hill Park was procured by the Big Sky Community Organization in 2018 with the financial support of the Len Hill Charitable Trust, for which it is named, and in-kind support of the Simkins family and 15 additional donors. Len Hill cared deeply for Big Sky, says Whitney Montgomery, CEO of BSCO, learned that the space was slated for condominiums and felt that it was worth saving. This passion, alongside the collaboration that

organizations like BSCO witness in their day-to-day work to preserve the area's gems, are what sets Big Sky apart from other communities.

Although the 3.3 acre park is 15 percent smaller than the previous venue, that didn't seem to stop dancers and spectators of all ages at its inaugural concert. In fact, it almost made things more intimate, with patrons waving hello at neighbors upon returning to their blanket, and drawing Town Center-goers to the revelry from across the street. According to Montgomery, once the hockey rink is completed, additional space will open up for more food trucks and lawn chairs.

Montgomery mentioned one of the park's key features for premium music-watching—the hill that they built up along the back flank to provide better viewpoints during the concert.

At the show, Hurlbut thanked the concert series' sponsors: Big Sky Resort, Bozeman Health, the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation and Big Sky Resort Area Tax District, and noted that the week of Aug. 5, Bozeman Health would have their mobile screening bus and COVID-19 vaccines available to attendees. Hurlbut thanked BSCO and spoke with excitement of the forthcoming BASE Community Center, in which the Arts Council will soon have new offices as well as a classroom for their art programs.

"The parks and trails are a huge part of the DNA of this town and with the pressures that are growing ... the protection of green space, parks and trails – it's immediate upon us to move quickly," said Montgomery. "I think many of the townspeople and also I think many of the developers in town appreciate the need to preserve the green space and the need for the trails to grow."



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Performances in the outdoors at WMPAC

WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

BIG SKY – On the heels of this winter's massively successful cross-country skiing and piano concert experience, the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center is presenting another immersive outdoor art experience. This time, the Grammy-winning choir, The Crossing, returns to Big Sky for their annual summer residency, during which they incubate new work. The Crossing will present two concerts, one on Friday, July 30 and the second on Saturday, July 31.

Thanks to a new mobilized technology, winkingly called Ex Covid Haptotropic Optimistic Electrophonic Sound, or, ECHOES, the first performance will take place across the landscape of Jack Creek Preserve. Members of the choir will be spread throughout the high mountain meadow above Moose Creek with portable speakers that collect and amplify their voices. Audience members will walk through the forest at whatever pace they like, encountering singers as they explore the landscape.

"The experience is the perfect reflection of our joint isolation during the past year and a half of the pandemic," said John Zirkle, executive director of WMPAC. "There are rich metaphors available about an individual's relationship to a group and a tree's relationship to the forest, but it will also be just a really cool way to hear gorgeous music in a spectacular setting."

The following evening, audience members will drive to Cache Creek Outfitters, a 15 minute drive up the Moose Creek forest service road off of Highway 191 between Big Sky and Gallatin Gateway. Eventgoers will park at Cache Creek Outfitters, and then walk for 10-15 minutes along an old logging road to a mountain meadow concert, which this time is stationary. The featured pieces for the evening are

David Lang's "in nature," which was commissioned by The Crossing and WMPAC last summer and will now be performed actually in nature—a new choral arrangement of the iconic "Jesus' Blood Never Failed Me Yet," by Gavin Bryars; and Ayanna Woods' "shift."

"The New York Times called The Crossing 'America's most astonishing choir' a few years back, and that was before they saw them amplified in a Montana meadow," said Zirkle. "Astonishing is just the beginning."

Tickets to both experiences are sold by vehicle. The cost is \$50 per car, but there is no limit on the number of audience members within each car. Both performances will require light hiking on wooded paths.

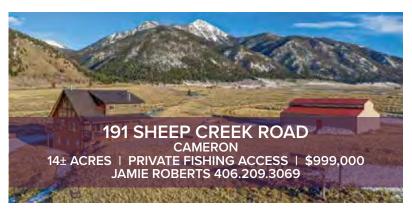
Reservations can be made for each experience online at warrenmillerpac. org. The ongoing vision of the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center is to create in the summer, present in the winter, and inspire year-round.



The Crossing returns to Big Sky for their annual summer residency performing on Friday, July 30 and Saturday, July 31. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER





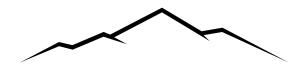






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BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, July 30 - Thursday, August 12

If your event falls between August 13 and August 26, please submit it by August 4 by emailing media@outlaw.partners

Friday, July 30

The Crossing by WMPAC

Jack Creek Preserve, 7 – 8 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo

175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Live Music: Dan Dubuque

Tips Up, 9 p.m.

FAC: Hannah Powell & Zander Chovanez

Blue Buddha Sushi Deck, 6 p.m.

Saturday, July 31

SUPER FUN Obstacle Course Race

Echo Arts, 12 p.m.

Northside Stroll

Bozeman's Northeast Neighborhood, 1 p.m.

The Crossing by WMPAC

Cache Creek Outfitters, 7 – 8 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo

175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Live Music: Savvy

Tips Up, 9 p.m.

Sunday, August 1

Bozeman's Historic Main Street Walking Tour

The Extreme History Project, 1 p.m.

Monday, August 2

Story Time

Big Sky Community Library, 10:30 a.m.

Burger Night with Stumpfy

The Bunker, 6 p.m.

Trivia Night

Pinky G's Pizzeria, 7 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo

175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Tuesday, August 3

Community Acupuncture Outside

Fire Pit Park in Town Center, 10 a.m.

"Bag the Peak" Cornhole Tournament

Crail Ranch, 5 p.m.

Trivia Night

ACRE Kitchen, 6 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo

175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 4

Hike Big Sky: Crail Trail

Crail Trail, 9 a.m.

Big Sky Farmers Market

Town Center, 5 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo

175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Live Music: Amanda Stewart

Tips Up, 8 p.m.

Thursday, August 5

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo

175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Music in the Mountains: John Roberts y Pan Blanco

Len Hill Park, 7:15 p.m.

Live Music: Wes Urbaniak & The Mountain Folk

Tips Up, 10 p.m.

Friday, August 6

Dynamic Painting with a Palette Knife Workshop with David Mensing

Location TBD, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Register at: bigskyarts.org/2021/04/24/dynamic-painting-with-a-palette-knife-david-mensing/

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo

175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Live Music: Peter King

Tips Up, 9 p.m.

FAC: One Leaf Clover

Blue Buddha Sushi Deck, 6 p.m.

Saturday, August 7

Dynamic Painting with a Palette Knife Workshop with David Mensing

Location TBD, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Register at:

bigskyarts.org/2021/04/24/dynamic-painting-with-a-palette-knife-david-mensing/

Big Sky Challenge Hike: Brain Injury Alliance of Montana

Big Sky Resort, 8:30 a.m.

Hike Big Sky: Tiny Treks Ousel Falls

Ousel Falls Trail, 10 a.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo

175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Live Music: Bent Records

Tips Up, 9 p.m.

Sunday, August 8

Dynamic Painting with a Palette Knife Workshop with David Mensing

Location TBD, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Register at: bigskyarts.org/2021/04/24/dynamic-painting-with-a-palette-knife-david-mensing/

Living History presentation with Anne Foster

Crail Ranch, 2 p.m.

Monday, August 9

Story Time

Big Sky Community Library, 10:30 a.m.

Burger Night with Stumpfy

The Bunker, 6 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo

175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Trivia Night

Pinky G's Pizzeria, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, August 10

Women's Fly Fishing Clinic Gallatin River Guides, 1 p.m.

Youth Fly Fishing Clinic Gallatin River Guides, 1 p.m.

Trivia Night

ACRE Kitchen, 6 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo

175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 11

Hike Big Sky: South Fork

South Fork Loop Trail, 9 a.m.

Big Sky Farmers Market

Town Center, 5 p.m.

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo 175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

173 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.iii

Live Music: Cruz Contreras

Tips Up, 8 p.m.

Thursday, August 12

Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo

175 Oldroyd Rd., 7 p.m.

Music in the Mountains: Dammit Lauren!

Len Hill Park in Town Center, 7:15 p.m.

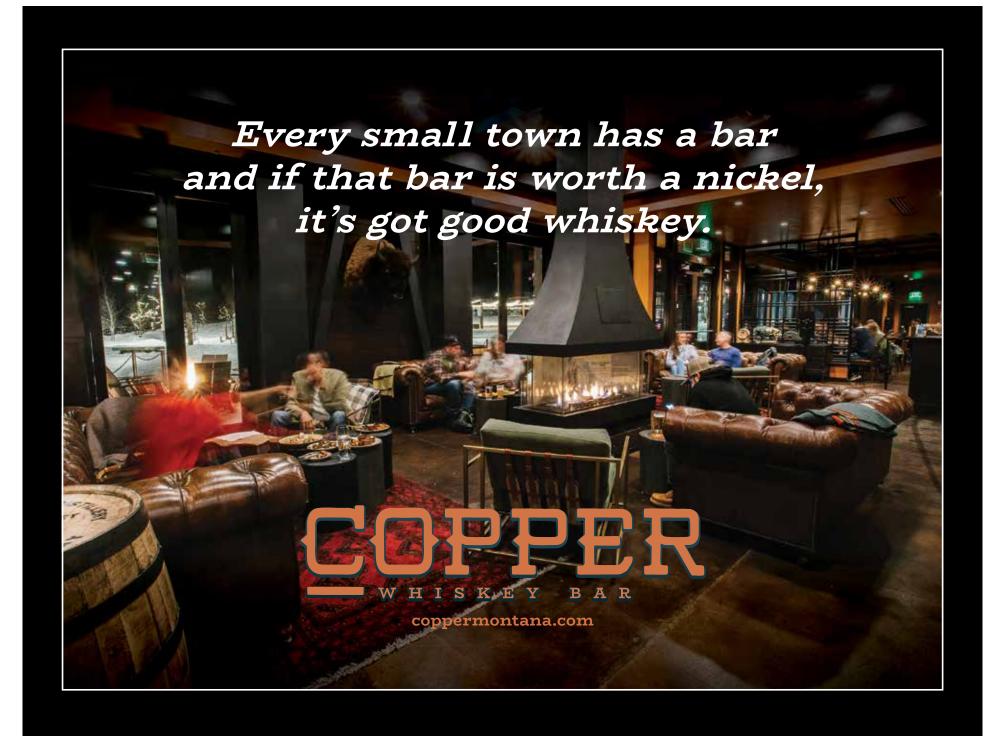
Live Music: Hard Hugs

Tips Up, 10 p.m.

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Making it in Big Sky: Paparazzi Fur "Just Fur Fun"

BY GABRIELLE GASSER

BIG SKY – From wildlife biology to the fur coat trade, Craig Swick knows animals, specifically, their pelts.

After his first trunk show in the Huntley Lodge in 1985 and selling seven coats, Swick was hooked and changed careers immediately.

"I quit [wildlife biology] because selling fur coats is a lot more fun."

Thirty-five years later, Swick has built a successful business selling fur coats, accessories and bedspreads, among other things. The furs include mink, beaver, lynx, fox and sable to name a few, in a variety of natural colors and dazzling dyes. The business started in 1986 at a location in the Mountain Mall, now The Exchange, and operated there until 2019 when Paparazzi Fur relocated to its new Town Center location.

Back when Big Sky was still an undiscovered ski town, Swick would hold impromptu fashion shows at Whiskey Jacks, now Montana Jacks, and recruit random passersby to model his luxury furs. Swick would give them the full runway experience, using an old Kodak box camera

with a flash bulb to take photos.

Explore Big Sky sat down with Swick to learn more about his luxury furs and buying trips around the world. His answers are below.

Some answers have been edited for brevity.

Explore Big Sky: When did you come to Big Sky and start Paparazzi Fur? Craig Swick: I came to Big Sky in February of 1985. I'm a wildlife biologist as well as a hunter and a trapper, and I used to work for the state of Montana. A manufacturer in New York sent me a bunch of fur coats and asked me to go do a trunk show at some ski resort. I lived in Lewistown, Montana. I had a really successful trunk show for one weekend, and I sold seven fur coats. John Kircher said 'gee you outta open up a fur coat store here.' And I go, 'Yeah, I was thinking the same thing. You got someplace where I could lease a store?' and he said no, but he said go over in the mall and look around over there, maybe you might find something that you like. So, I went over to the mall and I found a space that I liked. And it's the space right in front of where the restrooms are on the first floor. I ended up leasing that space, I was there from 1986 until 2019, when they decided to expand the restrooms.

EBS: How big is your team?

C.S.: We have four people, Anita Jackson, Sylvia McMinn, Lisa Whitzel-Lohss and myself. Anita Jackson has been with Paparazzi Fur for nine years after starting in July of 2012. Sylvia McMinn first started with Paparazzi Fur in 1996 when she moved to Big Sky and then she bought coffee shops in the Mountain Mall and the Summit Hotel at Big Sky Resort, which she ran for 17 years. In 2017, Sylvia rejoined the Paparazzi Fur team. Lisa does part-time work for the team.



After working a trunk show in the Huntley Lodge in 1985, Craig Swick started Paparazzi Fur "Just Fur Fun" and has been buying and selling fine furs for 36 years. PHOTO BY GABRIELLE GASSER

EBS: Tell me about the products you carry? **C.S.:** We carry fur coats, jackets, vests, capes, bedspreads, hats and accessories. We buy from manufacturers all over the world: New York, Montreal, Los Angeles, Paris and Hong Kong, to mention a few locales. We've sold coats to customers in all 50 states, as well as foreign countries. I've sold several coats to a gal in Austria and France. We've sold coats all over the world and we buy coats all over the world. One thing that's deceiving, is people used to think that a fur coat store in Big Sky was going to be Montana furs, like the Jim Bridger look or the Davy Crockett look. We buy these garments and Sylvia and Anita are frequently in on the buying because we all go to fur fairs and buy, and we buy off of the runways. So, when some fashion model is modeling the coat for a manufacturer if ... [Sylvia and Anita] like it, I will buy it because they're the ones that have to sell it.

EBS: What is your favorite product in the store?
C.S.: A Red Fox Vest with white Shadow

Fox Trim and fringe with conchos. That's my favorite piece in here because I designed it and drew it up.

EBS: What is the best part of working at Paparazzi Fur?

C.S.: Customers always leave happy and frequently come back to see what is new. When people come in to the store, they're mostly intimidated, but if we can talk them into trying on a few coats, pretty soon they find one and say 'Jeez this kind of looks nice, I think I might like this. I think I could wear that vest someplace.' They end up, finding a coat that they like. By and large, nobody ever walks out of the store unhappy. People that walk out of here, they walk out of here happy.

Customers always leave happy and frequently come back to see what is new.

EBS: What is the best business advice you have ever received? C.S.: Buy garments off of the high fashion runways.

EBS: Anything else you would like to add?

C.S.: Besides looking good in a fur coat, they keep you warm in the winter and will last 20-30 years. Fur coats are biodegradable and do not harm the environment. Paparazzi is the name of the photographer taking pictures of movie stars and socialites. You will want your picture taken in a nice fur garment!

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AMUSE-BOUCHE

Amuse-bouche refers to an appetizer, and by French translation means, "to entertain the mouth." It offers a glimpse into what you should expect from a meal. Also it's free, compliments of the chef.

If you build it, will they come?



BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Data shows us that the Gallatin Valley has grown steadily for the better part of 100 years. However, that growth became exponential about five years ago and COVID has played a part in this growth. It seems everyone wants a piece of what we have in this fabulous part of America.

Anyone can see that all commerce throughout the valley is booming, but for some reason I have a particularly crisp memory of visualizing the bars and restaurants here that I patronize and when exactly they have been busy, and when they have not.

For the last several months, they are all busy, all the time, every day—at least those that are able to actually keep their doors open seven days a week.

With this growth comes the need for folks to find a roof over their head and this basic human need is proving far from basic. We all long for our local bar, restaurant or coffee shop to provide the experience we enjoyed not many years ago. Yet none of us want to live next to a mighty oak apartment building or housing unit that blocks our little maple lives, to reference one of my favorite Rush songs.

So where should everyone live?

One could make the argument that for years we have been dealing with a case of what is known as Windmilling.

The term originated from what is known as the Cape Wind Project when Cape Wind had a grand plan to build 130 massive wind turbines off the coast of Cape Cod, a cause supposedly near and dear to the Kennedys, the well-known political dynasty. That is until the late Ted Kennedy realized he would have to look at these wind turbines from the shore of his 26-acre oceanfront estate. Ted was a staunch environmental and clean energy advocate, yet became a participant of the "not in my backyard" mentality.

Thanks to years of lawsuits and political red tape, the Cape Wind project never happened.

Now, virtually all of us are faced with the reality that employment now almost always comes with a contingency. And that contingency is housing.

If I've written once, I've written 100 times about the many hats a chef, restaurant or bar owner has to wear. Now it seems we need to have a landlord hat on our rack as well.

It seemed unfathomable 10 years ago when my friend Megan was living in Jackson Hole and had a well-paying job as a manager at the Teton Village Four Seasons, yet she required not one, but two roommates to afford her rent.

Today the Gallatin Valley is singing that same song as we follow the unfortunate footsteps of our rival 180 miles to the south.

This all leaves us with the reality that, in an industry barely keeping its head above water, we now have to acquire or build places to live if we have any hope of retaining employees. It seems if you want to be in the hospitality business, you also need to be in the landlord and property management business.

Ever since the lifting of national travel restrictions, seating limitations and lock downs, the Gallatin Valley is busier than it has ever been and hasn't looked back. If for no other reasons, we just don't have the time.

Scott Mechura has spent a life in the hospitality industry. He is an executive chef, former certified beer judge and currently the multi-concept culinary director for a Bozeman based restaurant group.



REAL ESTATE



33 Acres Wooded w/Views Big Sky, MT \$795,000



Peaceful Flathead River Front Big Fork, MT \$2.35M



.5 Ac Adj. to Park Southside Bozeman, MT \$1.195M

Joe Duval 406 570 7837 joe@MontanaLifeRE.com

MontanaLifeRE.com



PureWest

CHRISTIE'S

48050 Gallatin Road \$9,500,000



· 31± acre legacy property; 2100' Gallatin River frontage; 2 spring creeks, private pond, outbuildings,

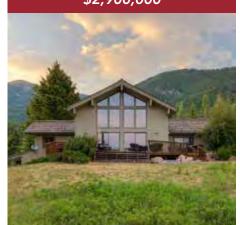
2033 Ousel Falls Road \$5,715,000



 \cdot 20.77± 1923 Presidential Grant Homestead property · Located along the road that leads to the SPMC & YC; can accommodate short take off and landing aircraft LYNN MILLIGAN | 406.581.2848

2 wells, 2 septic systems **MARY WHEELER | 406.539.1745**

2670 Bobtail Horse Road \$2,900,000



- 3 bdrms | 4.5 baths | 3,850± SF | .86± acres
- · Desirable Sweetgrass Hills location with views
- · Close promixity to all Meadow amenities and trails **SANDY REVISKY | 406.539.6316**

1024 Beaver Creek Road \$2,500,000



- 3 bdrms | 2.5 baths | 2,768± SF | 4.00± acres
- Immaculately maintained home and grounds
- Direct Beaver Creek access; guest home permitted LYNN MILLIGAN | 406.581.2848

TBD Appaloosa Trail \$1,300,000



- · 33.28± Acres
- · Located 15 minutes from the entrance to Big Sky
- · Enjoy views, old-growth trees, and water features **SANDY REVISKY | 406.539.6316**

TBD Summit View Drive, Lot 15 \$975,000



- 2.85± Acres
- · Gated access with panoramic Lone Mountain views
- Community nature trail; easy access to Big Sky Resort **JACKIE MILLER | 406.539.5003**

Visit us at either of our locations

88 Ousel Falls Road, Suite B | The Exchange (formerly the Mountain Mall)

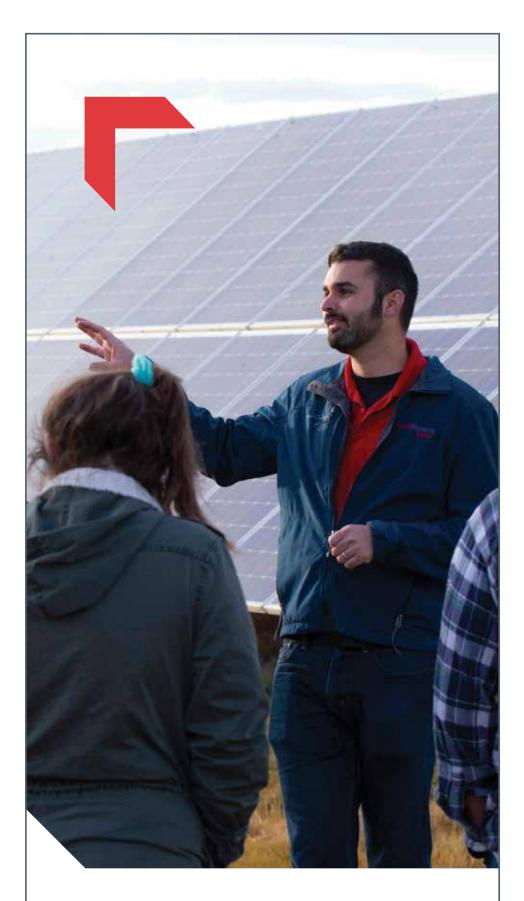
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View more of the story at NorthWesternEnergy.com/BrightFuture



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Crail Gardens is a native garden demonstrating ways to:



conserve water



provide wildlife habitat



preserve our natural heritage

Keystone Plant Species:

i.e., the glue that holds a habitat together

Aspens · Cherries · Willows Spruces · Pines · Firs Goldenrods · Asters

Sunflowers · Blanketflower

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One easy way to start is by adding a few keystone plant species to your property, as they will have the most significant positive impact on the ecosystem.



Learn more at www.gallatinisa.org



Crail Garden Partners:



















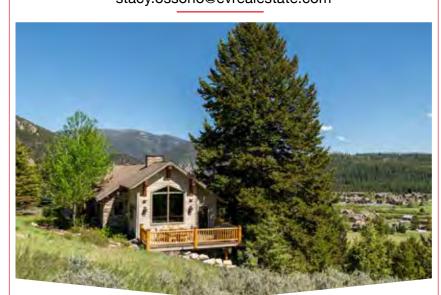




ENGEL&VÖLKERS®



2100 North Fork Road I Big Sky, MT 5-Structure Private Compound I +/- 9,000 sqft on +/- 20 Acres Main House I Guest House I Caretakers Quarters +/- 12,000 sqft Garage \$12,000,000 I MLS# 355935 Stacy Ossorio, Broker | 406-539-8553 stacy.ossorio@evrealestate.com



2350 Two Gun Calf Road I Big Sky, MT 3 Beds I 3.5 Baths I +/- 3,512 sqft. I Sweetgrass Hills \$2,700,000 I MLS# 357928 Stacy Ossorio, Broker I 406-539-8553 stacy.ossorio@evrealestate.com

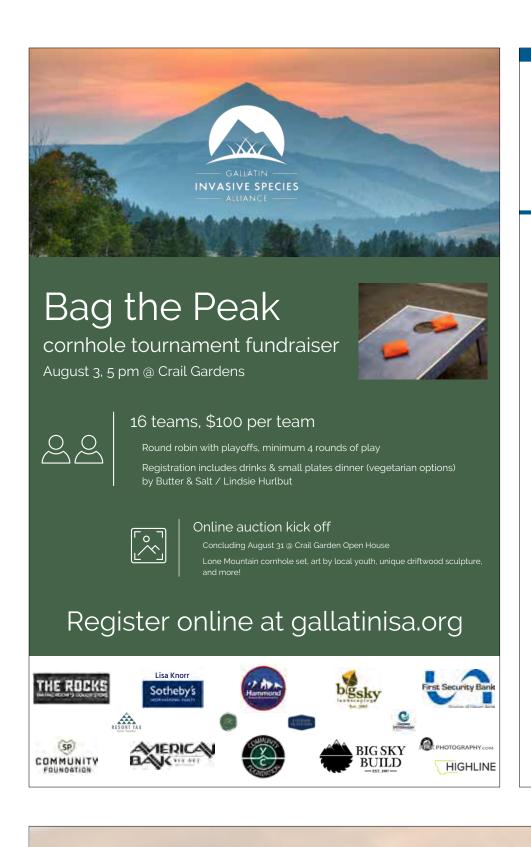


48042 Gallatin Road, Big Sky, MT 5 Bed | 3 Bath | +/- 3692 sq ft. | 300 ft of River Frontage \$2,795,000 | MLS# 355878 Stacy Ossorio, Broker | 406-539-8553 stacy.ossorio@evrealestate.com Courtney King, Realtor | 406.581.4078 courtney.king@evrealestate.com

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American Life in Poetry

BY KWAME DAWS

For many of us who live in land locked states, an encounter with the tumult and power of the sea can be a bracing encounter with nature. Here, in a poem I came across in a clever new anthology called Read Water, Annie Finch captures the humbling way that the sea asserts its forceful voice.

Edge, Atlantic, July

BY ANNIE FINCH

I picked my way nearer along the shocking rock shelf, hoping the spray would rise up to meet me, myself.

Seagulls roared louder and closer than anything planned; I looked out to see and forgot I could still see the land.

Lost in a foaming green crawl, I grew smaller than me; shrunk in a tidepool, I heaved, and I wondered. The sea

grew like monuments for me. Each wave and its coloring shadow, bereft, wild and laden with wrack, spoke for me and had no

need of my words anymore. I was open and glad at last, grateful like seaweed and glad, since I had

no place on the rocks but a voice, and the voice was the sea's: not my own. Just the sea's.

CROSSWORD PUZZI

ACROSS

- 1 Air-to-air missile (abbr.)
- 4 Down with (Fr.
- 2 words) 8 Brewer's yeast
- 12 Certified Public Accountant (abbr.) 13 Concluding
- passage: mušic 14 Wings
- 15 Felon 17 Female
- 18 Mother of
- Castor 19 Turk. title 20 Eucharist spoon
- 22 Turf fuel 24 Ancient Gr.
- contest 29 Irish rebel
- group 30 Racing boat 31 Guido's note (2 words) 32 Form into a

24

29

32

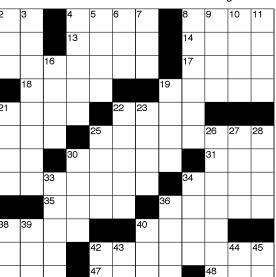
41 46

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- 34 Christmas (abbr.) 35 Dog name
- 36 Bright 37 Breach
- 40 Close 41 Edge 42 Optic (2 words) 46 Initial (abbr.)
- 47 Comparative conjunction 48 Nat'l Endowment for the
- Arts (abbr.) 49 Relinquish 50 Ruin 51 Poetic

DOWN

- 1 Atl. Coast (abbr.)
- Conference Annual percentage rate (abbr.)
- O|K|DPAU |H|O|S|E|L AVENA EKG NCO DEDUCE AOUDAD ICARUS DUATABBY ODDS ARS RABI SITIAINICIH UNSAIDHOLDUP SAC
- |O|L|D| 3 Packet (2 words)
- Amino U.S. mountain Amer. Dental
- Assn. (abbr.) E. Indian timber
- Braz. gum tree 8



- LAPIN 9 Woe is me 10 Reckless
- 11 Flat-topped hill 16 Chin. flour 19 Container 20 Non-cleric
- 21 Taj Mahal site 22 Underworld god
- 23 She (Fr.) 25 Academy (abbr.) 26 Threadlike
- 27 Clarinet (abbr.) 28 Asia 30 Agitated state
- 33 Worn out 34 Christmas
- 36 Fish net 37 Smear 38 Single 39 Wife of Geraint
- 40 Caucasus people 42 Off-track betting
- (abbr.) 43 Federal Housing Admin. (abbr.)
- 44 Shak. contraction
- 45 No (Scot.)

A150

Corner Ounto

"Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life."

-John Muir, Our National Parks

BIG SKY

River Floatin'

BY JULIA BARTON

There's nothing quite refreshing as spending a Saturday afternoon floatin' down a cold, Montana river after a week of hard work (or play) in the summer heat. Put your feet up, get a cold beverage in your hand, grab some friends and enjoy a day on the water with these chill songs to keep the mood light and the vibes high.



- 1. "Endless Summer" by Grizfolk
- **2.** "That's Life" by Still Woozy
- **3. "Sunroof"** by courtship.
- 4. "Puppy Llama" by Coast Modern
- 5. "Can I Kick It" by Logic ft. Juto
- **6.** "Dirt Cheap" by Lime Cordiale
- 7. "Chapstick Demo" by Hippo Campus **8.** "My Vibe" by Mt. Joy
- **9. "Sunbleached Girl"** by Shag Rock
- **10. "Something Good"** by alt-J



MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

14 Beehive Basin MLS # 360231 | 2.79 +/- ACRES | \$1,495,000

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MOONLIGHT BASIN

4 Full Moon Road MLS # 356639 | 3 BED + 4.5 BATH | 2,664 +/- SQ. FT. | \$3,490,000



SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB

TBD Seclusion Point MLS # 360763 | 3.54 +/- ACRES | \$2,550,000



GALLATIN CANYON

Freedom Pass Property Decamp Drive MLS # 360218 | 260 +/- ACRES | \$7,500,000



MEADOW VILLAG

146 Chief Joseph MLS # 360210 | 4 BED + 3.5 BATH | 4,790 +/- SQ. FT. | \$3,500,000



MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

TBD White Otter Road MLS # 359455 | 0.89 +/- ACRES | \$1,300,000



MEADOW VILLAGE

476 Stream Side Way
MLS # 360261 | 5 BED + 5.5 BATH | 4,263 +/- SQ. FT. | \$5,175,000



MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

24 White Otter MLS # 354967 | 5 BED + 5 BATH | 5,031 +/- SQ. FT. | \$5,250,000





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